FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 OCTOBER 1983

Lebanon

Security Situation — One Marine was killed and five others were wounded on 16 October when U.S. positions at Beirut Airport came under fire from gunmen in southern Beirut, AFP reported citing a Marine spokesman. Lebanese Army positions around Beirut also came under fire despite continuing attempts by the Security Arrangements Committee to end the cease-fire violations. A Lebanese soldier died from wounds received, according to Beirut radio. Further south, the coastal road to Sidon was disrupted by renewed fighting in the Al-Kharrub region, the radio reported.

IDF-Shi'ite Clash in An-Nabatiyah — Israeli soldiers passing through An-Nabatiyah fired into a crowd of Shi'ites celebrating the 'Ashura' festival after their convoy was attacked by the crowd and their vehicles were burned, Jerusalem radio reported. Ten inhabitants were wounded in the incident but no Israeli soldiers were hurt, the radio said. Beirut radio accused the Israelis of committing a "horrible crime" against the Shi'ites and claimed that about five IDF soldiers were killed or wounded.

Political Developments — The venue for the National Dialogue Committee meeting scheduled for 20 October will be announced "not later than" 18 October, Beirut radio reported. The agenda for the talks consists of eight subjects including national accord, Lebanon's foreign relations, ending the Israeli occupation, the withdrawal of all other foreign forces not approved by the government, and internal reforms. Earlier, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri revealed that the venue for the talks will be inside Lebanon, according to the radio.

The Italian prime minister announced in Athens that Italy agrees to Lebanon's request for observers to police the cease-fire, Beirut radio reported. The Security Arrangements Committee had agreed to address official requests to Greece and Italy during its 15 October meeting, Voice of Lebanon radio noted. The meeting came after the Amal and National Salvation Front (NSF) representatives agreed to resume participating in the committee's work.

In another development, Syria's daily *Tishrin* warned that any "U.S.-Phalangist attempt" to obstruct national reconciliation and dialogue in Lebanon will be considered a violation and rejection of the cease-fire agreement, SANA reported. If this happens, the NSF will have Syria's complete support in absolving itself of the cease-fire agreement and resuming the battle against the "Phalangist regime" at the time and place it chooses, the paper added.

Meanwhile, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt held talks in Jordan with King Husayn, according to Amman radio.

'Arafat Blamed Over Tripoli — Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas, in a speech reported by SANA, blamed PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for "fabricating" the recent clashes in Tripoli during which the Lebanese Communist Party suffered heavy casualties at the hands of the Islamic Unification Movement. The Communist Party and several Palestinian factions including the PFLP and DFLP also held 'Arafat responsible for the killings, according to Beirut and Damascus radios. 'Arafat denied the accusations, however, telling PLO military leaders in northern Lebanon that his successful efforts to halt the fighting were being subjected to an "unfair media campe n" aimed at distorting the reputation of the PLO and its leadership, North Lebanon Voice of Palestine radio reported. A Fatah spokesman cited by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio likewise dismissed the charges against 'Arafat, asserting that the PLO leader's mediation efforts had spared the Communist Party further losses.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iran will block the Strait of Hormuz if it cannot export oil, but if the Iraqis succeed in partially disrupting Iranian oil exports, "it will not be in our interest to block the Strait," Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced in a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio. He said Iran will "enter the arena" and do as it likes if it is unable to export oil and runs out of money, but added that he considers this eventuality "unlikely." The Majlis speaker claimed that it would be "easy" for Iran to block the Strait if it deemed this necessary, asserting that Iranian artillery at Bandar 'Abbas or on nearby islands could create a "wall of fire" over the Strait and that Iranian aircraft might use air-to-sea missiles. Iran could even close the Strait with Kalashnikovs, he said, adding, "our children can sit in small boats very close to the Strait." In any case the five Super Etendard aircraft which France has not yet "dared" deliver have little military value, Hashemi-Rafsanjani contended, and Iraq possesses other "much more dangerous" weapons which have achieved "nothing." He said the Super Etendards will be vulnerable to Iran's F-14 aircraft if they overfly Iranian territory, adding that the Iraqis will find it difficult to reach Khark Island with Exocet missiles and would need to use a trick to succeed. Nevertheless, he admitted that Iran's ability to defend its airspace is restricted "having only 70 or 80 F-14 aircraft."

The Majlis speaker also warned the Western powers that if they attempt to lift an Iranian blockade of the Strait of Hormuz by force, this would lead to an armed conflict, which Iran does not fear. Some "pampered" people in Iran might not like the shortages caused by a blockade of the Strait and might "chant slogans," he said, but they would be sent for hard labor in the desert.

Meanwhile, Paris radio reported that the whereabouts of the five Super Etendards remains a mystery. Although the French paper *France-Soir* claimed that the aircraft arrived at an Iraqi base near Mosul on 8 October, the commander in chief of the Iraqi Air Force announced on 15 October that the planes still had not arrived in Iraq, the radio noted. The Iraqi official explained that the delay is because the Iraqi pilots training in France are not yet ready to use the aircraft. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz stressed in an interview with the Paris magazine *Al-Mustaqbal* that Iraq hopes to avoid being "forced" to use the Super Etendards against Iran, AFP reported. In his 13 October press conference with French journalists, broadcast by Baghdad radio, President Saddam Husayn claimed that Iraq possesses a squadron of Mirage F-1 aircraft equipped with Exocet missiles.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saddam Husayn announced at his 13 October press conference that Iraq no longer provides any financial or other assistance to Palestinian dissident leader Sabri al-Banna, whom the Iraqi leader referred to by the nom de guerre Abu Nidal. In his remarks, broadcast by Baghdad radio, the president also confirmed reports of Arab mediation efforts to settle Iraqi-Syrian differences, disclosing that Syria has been willing to discuss the possibility of reopening the pipeline carrying Iraqi oil through its territory. Meanwhile, the West Bank paper *Al-Fajr* reported that Syria has called on the Arab states to adopt a "specific position" toward the PLO as a precondition for improving its relations with Iraq and reopening the pipeline, according to Baghdad voice of PLO radio. In Damascus President al-Asad received Saudi Information Minister 'Ali Hasan ash-Sha'ir, who delivered a message from King Fahd on the current situation in the region, Damascus radio reported on 16 October.

Iran

A secret radio station controlled by the Iran Communist Party — "the successor" to the "defunct" Tudeh Party — began experimental broadcasts on 14 October, according to the clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio.

U.S. Plan for Jordanian Forces

Israel recently conveyed several protests to the United States over the plan to establish a Jordanian commando force equipped with advanced weapons and communications systems, the Tel Aviv paper *'Al Hamishmar* reported. Israel told the United States that it opposes any further strengthening of Jordan that is not coupled with a Jordanian declaration of willingness to proceed toward a political settlement with Israel, the paper noted.

Syria's daily *Tishrin* said that if the purpose of the special Jordanian unit is to intervene as a rapid deployment force in the Gulf this is "very strange and raises many questions" since it will divert Jordanian soldiers from protecting the border with Israel, SANA reported.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Italian Reparations — In remarks cited by JANA, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told Italian journalists that the Libyan people's "psychological complex" over the colonial period could lead to war sometime in the future if Italy does not pay the reparations demanded by Libya.

Dispute With France — The Libyan ambassador to France, in remarks to a French paper cited by Paris radio, linked the detention of French citizens in Tripoli last week with the suspected Libyan terrorist currently facing extradition from France to Italy. The envoy warned that there may be "further repercussions" if the extradition goes through, the radio said.

Pakistan

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq met with a delegation of the Pakistan Muslim League-Pagaro Group, while the chief of the Armed Forces spent 3 hours with the head of the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Party, according to reports by Karachi Radio and AFP. AFP said that during his meeting the head of the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal said "serious dialogue" can start only if parties are legalized and their leaders released. Meanwhile, in a conversation with newsmen in Lahore reported by Karachi radio, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq said separate talks are being held with various "defunct" political parties.

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'Arafat Interviewed on Fatah, Syria Problems

GF141522 Kuwait Al-Watan in Arabic 13 Oct 83 p 13

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, by *Al-Watan* correspondent in Tripoli, northern Lebanon — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Fatah, and even the entire Palestinian revolution and its national issue, are now in danger and are in the most dangerous and crucial circumstances. How do you view these fatal threats and what is the possibility of finding an exit from the dark tunnel you predicted?

[Answer] In fact we are not in danger. We are only facing some troubles or some conspiracies, and perhaps this conspiracy is one of the conspiracies facing us. It is aimed against Fatah, which is considered the starter of the Palestinian revolution, and it is aimed against the PLO, which is leading this nation. We have become used to this kind of thing. When I spoke about the dark tunnel, the people didn't understand what I was saying. But now they have started to understand the truth.

[Question] You were able through your extraordinary power to control most, and even all, differences and splits within the Fatah movement and were able to contain them for the past 19 years. Is there still any possibility that this power will be used to deal with what is happening now?

[Answer] Yes, yes. Within Fatah. However, we do have our own Trojan horses; Abu Nidal for instance. I could not control him because he is an intelligence agent.

[Question] But it is said that Abu Nidal had nothing to do with the incidents.

[Answer] Who told you so? Abu Nidal is the one who occupied our offices in Ba'labak.

[Question] But the opposition denies this.

[Answer] Please, please, don't argue with me over fixed facts. I live facts. There is real action on the ground. Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] once announced that they appointed Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] commander of Al-'Asifah forces in the Lebanese arena upon agreement with the DFLP-GC, the Struggle Front, and Abu Nidal's group.

[Question] Don't you consider that most of the Arab regimes are satisfied about what has happened?

[Answer] No, no, only some Arab regimes.

[Question] But it seems that there is a move to put a real limit to the deterioration, especially by Saudi Arabia, which is the leader of these regimes.

[Answer] No. There is a delegation from Saudi Arabia. Contacts are being made with the Saudi leaders, particularly King Fahd and Prince 'Abdallah. There is also an Algerian move and a Kuwaiti move, and there are efforts being made by our friends, foremost of whom are the Soviets.

[Question] At the start of the move within Fatah and the tension in relations with Syria, Soviet President Andropov sent a special message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Can you enlighten us on its content?

[Answer] No. This is not possible. It is a message sent to President al-Asad personally and only the Soviet leadership has the right to disclose the contents of its messages.

[Question] This takes us to the Soviet stand. How do you see it now?

[Answer] The Soviet Union is trying to exert its efforts within the framework of balancing its Palestinian friend and its Syrian ally. For this reason the Soviets are puzzled by this equation.

[Question] If the PNC were to be convened, what matters and issues would it discuss?

[Answer] The political developments in the Arab region, the confrontation of hegemony on the PLO, and the struggle of our people in the occupied territories.

[Question] Do see that the issue of relations with Jordan, which was one of the causes of disagreement, will be discussed anew?

[Answer] Why do you return to the so-called disagreement? What disagreement is this? Either we respect legitimacy or we don't. There is a resolution that was unanimously endorsed by the PNC and no one has the right to abrogate this decision to establish confederal relations between the Jordanians and the Palestinians on the basis of Fes summit in order to face the international move. It was on this basis that we moved and shall move in the future.

[Question] But there is the experience of dialogue with Jordan which was a complete failure. Isn't that right?

[Answer] It failed because the Jordanian brothers insisted that the Reagan plan be the center of movement. We said to them that we could not agree and wanted Fes to be the center of movement because it was the Fes resolutions which we agreed upon and so did Jordan, all the Arabs, the group of nonaligned countries, the socialist countries, the Soviet Union, the Islamic countries, and even some European countries such as France and others who considered this a positive sign.

'Arafat Interview With AL-HAWADITH Reported

JN151725 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Radio correspondent recorded dispatch]

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar has again warned the Arab leaders of the partitioning and balkanization scheme which will begin in Lebanon and extend to the region. In an interview with the [London-based] Lebanese magazine *Al-Hawadith* today, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: The fire is in my room today, and tomorrow it will be in my brother's room, and later, in my cousin's room. Fire is in the entire home.

Regarding his presence in Tripoli, the brother leader said: When the Palestinians are warned by Reagan, Shultz, and others, do not think that your brother Abu 'Ammar will be far away from this region. He will face destiny on the side of his kinfolk and brothers. He added: Some people said I came through a narrow door. Believe me, it is the most honorable door, one which is better than all the red carpets that are spread out for your brother Abu 'Ammar outside this place.

Brother Abu 'Ammar appealed to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to interfere from his position of responsibility in order to put an end to the grave situation resulting from the large Syrian military concentration around the Tripoli area. Brother Abu 'Ammar indicated that the independent national Palestinian decision has been displayed by our kinfolk in the occupied territories, who took to the streets in Jerusalem and Gaza in defense of the revolution and its leadership and in defense of this decision. He added: I made a pledge to my people that nobody will tamper with this decision. I will hand this decision over to the youngest of cubs, knowing that the RPG children, whom the enemy admitted, will protect it as they are the generation of the independent decision.

Regarding the Arab silence over what is happening, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: This silence was there during the Beirut siege. It was also there during the U.S. intervention. It continues to exist and it is very serious. He called on the nation to wake up before it is too late. Brother Abu 'Ammar stressed that he is for the continuation of dialogue with Syria despite the failure of mediations made so far. He said: I do not at all consider the matter a personal one because I am the owner of a cause. He also stressed that dialogue with Jordan has not stopped. He said: As for us, the door is still open.

On the situation in the region and the future, Brother Abu 'Ammar told *Al-Hawadith*: Remember that when we were in Beirut we talked about an earthquake in the region. Look at what is happening. Reagan did not think of bringing all his fleets to the region. The one who claimed prophethood in Israel had an ugly fall. His secretary said that he was frustrated because he was shcoked at the great losses. Israel is still sinking. The earthquake is there is Israel, Lebanon, and the Palestinian arena. It will reach every Arab house. Write these words in my name. The earthquake which took place in Beirut has not stopped after my departure. This earthquake is shaking the area and will burn all the U.S. interests.

Israeli Patrol Attacked in South Lebanon

JN141734 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] A group of the Palestinian-National Lebanese joint forces has attacked a Zionist military patrol on the coastal road south of the Al-Qasimiyah River. The machinegun and rocket attack killed or wounded several members of the Zionist patrol. A Zionist spokesman admitted the operation, and said that his forces carried out an extensive search campaign in the area immediately after the attack in a vain attempt to find the perpetrators.

Tripoli Clashes, Syrian Accusations Eyed

JN151825 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1636 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The regrettable armed clashes which took place in Tripoli recently between certain Lebanese parties, and the accusations leveled against the Palestinian revolution concerning these clashes, reveal the aims of certain suspect, outside forces in instigating the sectarian Tripoli clashes. The PLO leadership and Brother Abu 'Ammar personally exerted tremendous efforts to stop these clashes. Brother Abu 'Ammar led this intiative by moving from one center to another to stop these clashes despite the extremely serious security situation in the town. A cease-fire was realized following Abu 'Ammar's unnerving contacts with the parties concerned 2 days ago.

Tripoli is the last base for the revolution in Lebanon. The Syrian forces have driven us out from Al-Biqa' and from the areas of contact with the Zionist enemy. Certain Lebanese forces, with Syrian assistance, expelled us from the mountain and Ash-Shuf and from the areas of contact with the U.S. enemy, thus allaying the fears of Israel and the United States. Because Tripoli is our last base in Lebanon, we endeavor to keep this base strong, firm, and protected so as to defend the revolution and its future and the future of the Palestinian cause and people. This cannot be realized when there is a tense situation and when there are armed clashes among the occupants of the same trench. How can the ranks be close in this trench when certain parties in it are fighting each other?

At this stage, it is in the Palestinian revolution's interests and basic aims to maintain calm in Tripoli. On the other hand, it is clear that it is in the interest of the counterrevolutionary forces and the forces which attempt to liquidate the Palestinian revolution, particularly those who are besieging the revolution in Tripoli by clamping a noose of armored cars and special forces around this city, to create tension in Tripoli by instigating armed clashes and explosions so as to dissipate the Palestinian revolution efforts while it is trying to entrench itself against the enemy. They want to create despair among the masses in Tripoli by creating an atmosphere of terror so that they can demand the withdrawal of the Palestinian revolution from the town. They will then direct their final stroke against the revolution.

We tell them — and we accuse only the Syrian regime — that your game has become completely exposed, particularly by the Lebanese masses in Tripoli and their Nationalist Forces that responded to Abu 'Ammar's efforts and stopped the clashes. It is naive of you and a sign of your corruption to repeat the same exposed slogans and accusations.

PFLP, DFLP Blame 'Arafat for Tripoli Clashes

JN160641 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Damascus — The joint command of the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have profoundly condemned and deplored the Tripoli massacre and

held the Fatah Leadership in Tripoli responsible. The joint command said that this leadership has directly contributed toward the perpetration of the massacre and has provided a cover for the agent forces which implemented it against those Lebanese Nationalist Forces that are allied with the Palestinian revolution. In its statement, the joint command said: We stress the special responsibility of the PLO Executive Committee chairman, who has not behaved in a responsible manner. We are concerned about our strategic alliance, which is baptized with blood, with the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, which has taken the Palestinian revolution into its bosom and offered thousands of martyrs in defense of the Palestinian cause and presence in Lebanon.

The PFLP-DFLP joint command made it clear that such destructive actions, which have been and still are occurring in Tripoli, greatly undermine the Palestinian people's struggle and armed revolution and immensely harm the links and relations of fateful struggle between the Palestinian people on the one hand and the Lebanese people and their progressive forces on the other. These actions, the joint command added, tarnish the PLO image, relations, and alliances.

The joint command expressed the two front's support and solidarity with the Lebanese communists and the other Lebanese Nationalist Forces. It called on the PLO Executive Committee chairman to stop and prevent such destructive acts, which harm the Palestinian people's struggle. These acts do not in any way express the PLO stands and programs; neither do they represent the Palestinian people's desires, the statement said.

PFLP-GC Denounces 'Arafat's Tripoli Practices
JN161351 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] In Tripoli, the PFLP-GC has denounced the treacherous aggression against the centers of the Lebanese Communist Party in Tripoli which resulted in the killing and wounding of scores of the party's ranks. Through its official spokesman today, the PFLP-GC directly accused the clique of Yasir 'Arafat and Khalil al-Wazir and held it responsible for the security explosion, the killing of the many innocent victims and the strugglers of the Lebanese Nationlist Movement. The spokesman stressed that 'Arafat and his deputy Khalil al-Wazir are responsible for the hideous massacre which took place in Tripoli. He said that 'Arafat spares no effort to escape from his impass regardless of the results and the methods. The spokesman added: Despite the bewailing and posing as someone besieged and unjustly treated in Tripoli, 'Arafat has failed to win the sympathy of Palestinian and Arab public opinion and seeks today to win over the United States and Arab reactionaries by striking at the leftist and progressive forces in Tripoli in an attempt to appear hostile to the progressive forces and consequently to work as a policeman for the United States in the region in order to fill the vacuum left by the traitor Anwar as-Sadat.

PFLP Official Condemns Tripoli 'Massacre'
JN141924 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] The PFLP violently deplores the Tripoli clashes. PFLP Political Bureau member Bassam Abu Sharif said that the massacre that was committed against the Communist Party and the Progressive Nationalist Party in Tripoli is an egregious crime against the Lebanese people, the PLO, and the Arab liberation forces. Abu Sharif conveyed this statement to us from Aden. He is visiting Aden with a high-level Palestinian and Lebanese delegation comprised of Dr George Habash, Nayif Hawatimah, George Hawi, and Muhsin Ibrahim.

Fatah Responds to Lebanese CP Accusations
JN162114 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Oct 83

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] In response to the statement made by a spokesman of the Lebanese Communist Party holding certain Fatah elements responsible for what happened in Tripoli, a Palestinian spokesman has made the following statement to our radio: The Fatah Central Committee has addressed a detailed letter to the Political Bureau of the Lebanese Communist Party containing a detailed explanation of the clashes that took place between the party and the Islamic Unification Movement in Tripoli. It also contained the Fatah movement's regret over the unfair and harmful campaign waged by the communist party contrary to the facts experienced by the party strugglers in Tripoli and the effective role played by the commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution to protect the party's offices, leaders, and fighters in Tripoli.

Palestinian Source Refutes Reports on Tripoli
NC150823 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] The Palestinian revolution command has expressed its regret over reports on the recent events in Tripoli. The command described these reports as tendentious. A responsible source in the Palestinian revolution said that the Palestinian revolution command was shocked by the eruption of the clashes in Tripoli. The command, upon instructions of Brother Abu 'Ammar, and with the help of [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami, initiated contact with the disputing sides. The command followed up ceaseless contacts among the parties concerned until it succeeded in making the warring sides agree to a ground cease-fire. Brother Abu 'Ammar, the source added, had personally taken the initiative despite the grave security situation in the town.

The Palestinian source expressed sorrow for the victims of the infighting. He said what had happened constitutes a wound in the body of the revolution, and the national and Islamic forces. This is why, the source said, the revolution shouldered the brunt of the responsibility for opening a contact channel among the sides in a bid to normalize fraternal relations among all political,

popular, and Islamic forces in the town, out of its concern to safeguard the national Islamic march.

PNC's Al-Fahum, PLO Officials Meet in Damascus

JN151515 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Damascus, 15 Oct (SANA) — PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum held a meeting here today that was attended by a number of PLO Executive Committee members. Discussions revolved around the latest developments and the events in Tripoli where a massacre was committed agaisnt the Lebanese Nationalist Forces, which are allied with the Palestinian revolution. Lebanese communists, entire families, and innocent people were also massacred.

The conferees condemned this massacre and held the Tripoli leadership of Fatah responsible for it and for its causes by their direct interference and by providing a cover for the agent forces' deeds in the city.

Fatah Issues Statement on Tripoli Incidents

JN161834 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1605 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] The Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah, issued a statement in Tripoli on the statement that the brother PNC speaker issued in Damascus regarding the recent incidents in Tripoli in which he tried to involve the Fatah movement in those sorrowful incidents. The following is the text of the Fatah movement's statement:

The movement was astonished by the statement that was issued by the brother PNC speaker and a number of the Executive Committee who are present in Damascus — a statement which tried to involve the Fatah movement in the sorrowful incidents which took place in Tripoli in the wake of the bloody clashes among the Lebanese Communist Party, the Unification Movement, and the Islamic groups. In announcing our deep pain and regret over these incidents, we had wished that the brother PNC speaker and the brothers who signed the statement sought accuracy and truth in their statement. We had also wished them to be closed to their brothers in the Fatah movement, who are present in the northern area, to contribute to the efforts the Fatah brothers have exerted; efforts which have efficiently contributed to halting the gunfire, sparing blood, safeguarding the positions of the Communist Party in the city, and saving many strugglers who belong to the Communist Party.

This fact, the statement added, is well-known to all the citizens in the city. However, the distribution of responsibilities and levelling arbitrary accusations are not acceptable to anyone. We call on the brother PNC speaker and the PLO Executive Committee members who signed the statement to come to Tripoli to seek the truth, to know the details of the sorrowful incidents that Tripoli experienced during the past 3 days, and to become aware of the strenuous efforts that the brothers in the Fatah leadership in the north have exerted.

The brothers in the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine whose members participated in the joint force are aware of those difficult and serious efforts which resulted in halting the fighting.

Despite this unfair campaign, the Fatah movement addresses all the calls on them for more solidarity and cohesion to confront the huge conspiracy which is aimed at all of us. What has happned in Tripoli is first and foremost aimed at the Palestinian revolution and the Fatah movement. This conspiracy is also a part of the big scheme against the Palestinian and the Lebanese peoples, the Lebanese Nationalist Forces, and the Palestinian revolution. We call on all our brothers to resolutely confront this conspiracy and to bolster their cohesion in the face of our imperialist, Zionist, and other enemies. We also remind everyone how the revolution was preoccupied with the fighting that took place between the communists and the Amal Movement before the Israeli invasion in 1982.

Now we are facing a new preoccupation among the communists, the Unification Movement, and the Islamic groups. Does this mean that there will be a new invasion? It is a revolution until victory.

As-Sa'iqah Spokesman Raps 'Arafat's Tripoli Moves

JN151947 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] The general command of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards As-Sa'iqah forces has affirmed that the escalation of the bloody clashes by 'Arafat and his reactionary allies in Tripoli is a continuation of the battle of the mountain for which the Phalangists and their government were mobilized. The official spokesman of As-Sa'iqah forces said today that 'Arafat's leadership's suspect, deplorable role in Tripoli is meant to ruin and destroy the Lebanese alliance front, the Palestinian revolution, and revolutionary Syria which is a bulwark confronting the imperialists, the Zionists, and their Phalangist agents. The spokesman added that 'Arafat's and Al-Wazir's attempts to escalate the tension and foment trouble in Tripoli is an intentional action aimed at hiding their immense losses following the escalation of the internal Fatah uprising.

'Arafat Mediating To End Tripoli Clashes

JN141732 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and members of the Palestinian command in northern Lebanon are exerting intensive efforts to end the conflict between the warring Lebanese parties in Tripoli. In this regard, brother leader Abu 'Ammar met with former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami and members of the northern Lebanese coordination committee. It has been learned that brother leader Abu 'Ammar's efforts have greatly contributed to preventing further deterioration of the situation. WAFA's correspondent affirmed that there are now arrangements to implement a final cease-fire.

Moreover, joint patrols wer set up to supervise the removal of barracades and a return to normal life.

'Arafat Discusses Mediation

NC162057 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, Palestine revolution forces commander in chief, today presided over the expanded military council in the north [of Lebanon]. Attending the meeting were Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief; the commanders of the forces, battalions, and militias; and the officials of the institutions and organizational departments. Brother Abu 'Ammar elaborated on the overall situation in the Middle East, on the explosive situation in Lebanon, and on the covert and overt plans to implement the plot against the Palestinian revolution, which is considered the main obstacle facing the imperialist hegemony and its schemes to balkanize the Arab region.

Brother Abu 'Ammar expounded on the regrettable incidents that took place in Tripoli and on the clashes between two national groups that are members of the Northern Coordination Committee. He said: We have exerted every possible effort to avert an exacerbation and explosion of the situation and to block the road before those who are plotting to break up Tripoli's steadfastness and strike at the Palestinian revolution. After we succeeded in halting what was going on, an unfair media campaign was staged to distort the reputation of the revolution, its leadership, and its decisions. However, our masses and all the responsible political forces in this city know that we did not spare any effort. I personally moved in the streets and alleys and between the barricades to stop the fighting. Brother Abu 'Ammar said: We have formed a joint force to disengage the fighters and maintain security in the city.

Brother Abu Jihad spoke about the plot aimed at the Palestinian revolution and the treacherous part that the dissidents assume in it. He emphasized that the Fatah movement withstands the plots because it expresses, in its struggle and strife, the will and objectives of the Palestinian people, whom they are now trying to fragment and split in agreement with the United States, whose press has recently unraveled its scheme in this respect.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the brother commander in chief answered questions by several military and political brother cadres.

'Arafat Policy Leading to 'Dangerous Situation'

JN161420 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] The Damascus newspaper *Nidal ash-Sha'b*, the official organ of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, has called for deciding the situation and for confronting the deviationist Palestinian rightists' soft policy. The newspaper also clarifies that this right wing continues to deviate from the national resolutions and continues to create political, military, and information battles that harm relations with the Lebanese and Syrians who bravely confront the imperialist-Zionist plans. The newspaper adds:

This dangerous policy has negative effects on the revolution, and causes desperation and loss for all sectors of our people both inside and outside the occupied homeland. It also causes more fragmentation and disruption in the Palestinian arena. The newspaper concludes: Yasir 'Arafat's desire to visit Jordan defines the dangerous situation being sought by 'Arafat. He wants a confederation with Jordan on the basis of the Reagan initative, a move that makes it incumbent on the revolution's groups to take the necessary steps in order to correct the situation in the organization and its institutions.

Fatah CC Reportedly Meets in Kuwait 15 Oct

JN160928 Amman Sawt ash-Sha'b in Arabic 16 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] Kuwait — *Sawt ash-Sha'b* has learned that Fatah Central Committee members were scheduled to hold a meeting yesterday evening without Yasir 'Arafat and Khalil al-Wazir, who are now in besieged Tripoli. The Fatah Central Committee is faced with a group of political and organizational issues that require a clear and declared stand, including the statement issued in Amman few days ago by the Palestinian reconciliation committee stemming from the [Palestine] Central Council.

The Central Committee is expected to take some measures in an effort to tackle the critical situation in Fatah. The Central Committee will review its members' activities and reports of achievements made through their previous moves. They will also set up a plan for their future moves in light of the available information and current developments in the Palestinian arena.

Meetings Begin in Kuwait

GF170825 Doha QNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Oct (QNA) — Press reports here today indicate that members of the Palestinian Fatah Central Committee have already begun an emergency meeting in Kuwait in order to discuss in detail the current Fatah crisis and the contacts undertaken to terminate it. Quoting Palestinian sources, the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Qabas* said that the conferees will adopt resolutions to reorganize Fatah and assess its relations with the Arab countries. The resolutions will also discuss the possibility of holding a general conference of Fatah and of calling for the convening of the Palestine National Council as soon as possible. The paper pointed out that conferees — who will issue a political statement at the conclusion of their meetings — are fully coordinating with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and with Khalil al-Wazir, who are currently in Tripoli, North Lebanon.

According to the paper, the meeting is being attended by Salah Khalaf, the number two man in Fatah; Salim az-Za'nun, Fatah's representative in Kuwait and deputy chairman of the Palestine National Council; Khalid al-Hasan, the PLO information officer; Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser; Rafiq an-Natsahah, Fatah's representative in Saudi Arabia; Mahmud 'Abbas, Fatah Central Committee member; Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Political

Department chairman, and Saqr [name indistinct], secretary of the Fatah Revolutionary Council. Abu Mahir, Fatah Central Committee member, is absent from the meeting because he is in Damascus on the order of the Fatah movement.

PFLP-DFLP Command Holds News Conference 16 Oct

JN170744 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Damascus — The joint command of the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] held a news conference yesterday in the presence of PFLP Assistant Secretary General Abu 'Ali Mustafa and DFLP Assistant Secretary General Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh. It was held at the headquarters of the PLO Information and Culture Department, and attended by newsmen and correspondents from Arab and foreign news agencies, press, and television networks.

At the beginning of the news conference, Abu 'Ali Mustafa read out a program on PLO unity and democratic reform as presented by the PFLP-DFLP joint command to the resistance factions, progressive forces, and Palestinian national personalities. The program states that the Palestinian revolution has been exposed since its inception to numerous dangers and to various forms of military and political plotting by the imperialists-Zionists-reactionaries aimed at liquidating the revolution or obstructing its militant march. The program asserts that the climax of the military offensives the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance unleashed against the revolution with the aim of eliminating one of the main obstacles hampering the perpetuation of the Camp David accords was represented in the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, which was supported by U.S. imperialism. The program adds that the hostile forces continued their efforts to use the Reagan plan to drag the revolution to the U.S. settlement arena. It then indicates the dangers facing the Palestinian revolution at this difficult phase. These dangers are:

1. The danger of political liquidation as represented in the agreement to deal with the proposed liquidatory U.S. settlement schemes, headed by the Reagan plan.

2. The danger of division within the PLO ranks due to political, organizational, and behavioral reasons. Undoubtedly, the current Fatah crisis and the state of division and fratricide resulting from it strongly pose such a danger.

3. The danger of containing the PLO and imposing custodianship on it. The program states that the PFLP and DFLP believe that salvation is the responsibility of all revolution factions, and all national and progressive Palestinian forces and elements. The process of salvation should basically stem from a strong conviction in the need to carry out democratic reform in PLO institutions in a manner that will preserve the PLO's unity and cohesion.

Regarding the political aspect, the program stresses the need to adopt clear and unwavering stands. It also indicates the importance of respecting the political programs approved by the various PNC sessions. It says that the ambiguous stands emerged through the following manifestations:

1. Disregarding the hostile nature of imperialism as expressed in the readiness to deal with the U.S. imperialist plans and proposals, including making basic concessions in return for holding a dialogue with the United States.

2. Meeting with forces believing in Zionism.

3. Weakening the militant fact that the PLO is part of the Arab national liberation movement.

4. Failing to distinguish between relations with reactionary and with Nationalist regimes.

Regarding the organizational field, the program notes the recent prevalence of individualism in the political, organizational, cultural, information, military, and financial domains. This began with unilateral adoption of political decisions, suspension of collective decisions, and appointment of officials in the PLO's departments and institutions. The program adds that the unilateral policy weakened the bases and principles of democratic action within the PLO's bodies and establishments. It notes manifestations of financial and administrative negligence and sovereignty of factional considerations rather than appointing efficient people to positions of responsibility. The PFLP and DFLP stressed that this state can no longer be tolerated and that democratic reform should be based on the following principles:

1. Commitment and adherence to the Palestine National Charter and the successive PNC sessions' resolutions, particularly the political program approved by the 14th session.

2. Full relinquishment of wagering on the capitulatory political settlement plans.

3. Unequivocal assertion of enmity to imperialism, particularly U.S. imperialism, and categorical rejection of all imperialist plans.

4. Promotion of the militant and soldiarity relationship with the various factions of the Arab national liberation movement, giving priority to relations with them.

5. Definition of the level of relations with the Arab regimes on the basis of these regimes' stand toward U.S. imperialism and its schemes.

6. Assertion that alliance with the Soviet Union, the rest of the socialist states, and all the national liberation movements should not be subjected to either bargaining or maneuvering.

The program indicates that at present there are some basic issues toward which the PLO should have a clear stand. Top among these issues on the political level are:

1. The categorical rejection and confrontation of the Reagan plan.

2. The rejection of the Jordanian regime's plan which calls for a Palestinian-Jordanian federation or confederation.

3. The resistance of any relations with the Egyptian regime and the opposition of all attempts to break its isolation as long as this regime continues to adhere to the Camp David accords.

4. Struggle against the rightist and reactionary attempts to turn the Fes summit resolutions into a bridge toward the U.S. solution.

5. Commitment to the PNC sessions' resolutions on relations with the Jewish forces.

6. Revival and activation of the Palestinian National Front in the occupied territories, considering this front the PLO's arm in the interior.

7. Consolidation and promotion of the Palestinian-Syrian- Lebanese national alliance against the imperialist and Zionist plans in the region.

8. Consolidation and promotion of the militant relations with the National Salvation Front and the Amal Movement.

9. Protection of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

10. Consolidation and promotion of relations with Syria on the basis of joint adherence to the national and pan-Arab issues, and confrontation of the Zionist enemy and the imperialist- Zionist-reactionary plans in the region, headed by the Camp David accords, the Reagan plan, and the recent Zionist-Phalangist agreement.

The PFLP and DFLP stressed a host of basic principles regarding the organizational level. The most important principles are the following: Emphasizing commitment to the organizational program approved by the 14th PNC session; implementing the principle of collective leadership in all of the PLO's bodies and frameworks; applying the principle of taking to task anyone who departs from the rest of the group; terminating the factional hegemony, and giving all Palestinian national forces a chance to participate in the leading PLO bodies and institutions; assigning the PLO Executive Committee and other competent quarters the task of determining and declaring the PLO's political stands and relations with the various forces on the basis of a collective and democratic decision; and adopting the principle of accounting for any political, military, and behavioral violation or negligence to perform a duty.

On the military level, the two fronts stressed the militant commitment to adopt armed struggle as the Palestinian revolution's basic option. They also called for promoting military action against the Zionist enemy; implementing the PNC resolutions on the unification of the Palestinian revolution forces into one Palestinian National Liberation Army; forming a special commission to investigate all forms of negligence and misbehavior that emerged during the confrontation of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, and trying anyone who is convicted in this regard; and repositioning all of the Palestinian revolution forces in their former locations, where they can carry out their military activities against the Zionist enemy.

On the financial level, the two fronts emphasized the need to combat all forms of financial waste, corruption, and negligence in the PLO's institutions and the revolution factions. At the end of its program, the two fronts' joint command expressed its full readiness to hold an immediate dialogue on this program with all revolution factions and National Palestinian forces and personalities, considering it the road to salvation.

Antiarmor Mine Discovered Near Al-Baddawi

NC150830 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] A responsible security source in the PFLP-GC Provisional Command stated that at 0500 yesterday, an antiarmor mine was unearthed in a soccer field near the Al-Baddawi camp. The mine is of the type which is usually used against military and civilian vehicles. The Provisional Command said [PFLP-GC Leader] Ahmad Jibril, Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], and their agents are responsible for this vile act, stressing it will bring double retaliation on those who allow themselves to be seduced to play havoc with our people's security.

Fatah Dissident on Failure of Yasir 'Arafat

NC170931 Beirut As-Safir in Arabic 14 Oct 83 pp 1,8

[Excerpts] Nimr Salih (Abu Salih), a Fatah opposition leader, has announced that serious consultations are currently underway among the various resistance factions, as well as among the majority of the Palestinian commands, in a bid to revise the status of the resistance and take into account the latest developments that emerged on the Arab and Lebanese arenas. In an interview with the newspaper *As-Safir*, Abu Salih said that the Palestinian action must necessarily be revised. It is for the first time, he added, that an objective partiality has been expressed by the resistance factions in favor of the uprising. He said: The commanders of the Palestinian factions have agreed to conduct a dialogue with us because the situation dictates that all the military changes should be discussed on the political table.

In his interview, Abu Salih said that steps are underway to enable the militarist assume the official political work, adding that the PLO is almost crippled because its leadership is powerless. He said the thing on which nobody has touched is the presence of the uprising leadership in the heart of the Palestinian action.

Asked about the [Palestinian] position toward the projected solutions to the Palestinian problem, Abu Salih said: Actually, what is proposed to us is the U.S. settlement project. The uprising, he added, is for the rights of the Palestinian people and is to confront the deviation being led by Arab and Palestinian symbols. This deviation advocates a settlement, recognition of Israel, and a defeat. Abu Salih said: We call for rejecting the settlement. We do not believe that Israel will cede an inch of Palestine even if we lay down all the programs that are replete with maneuvers. The only program that will enable us to attain the Palestinian people's rights is fighting and defeating Israel. Abu Salih said: What worries the revolution's enemies is the existing alliance between the Palestinian revolution and Syria, and the assistance that Syria is rendering to the revolution. Without Syria we can never play an effective role. Likewise, without us Syria cannot wage effective battles to foil the schemes.

He continued: Syria, the Soviet Union and we are three links of one chain in three positions, working for a common interest and for the world and Arab liberation movement against imperialism. He strongly denied any Syrian influence on the opposition political decision. He said: There is (?arumentative) relationship ['illaqah jadaliyah] between us and Syria that gives a thrust to our action and move. He added that Syria's move is in our favor. Syria and we are the target for Israel, and both of us are aware of this.

Abu Salih asked: Why should Syria contain the Palestinian position? The United States tried and brought all kinds of pressures to bear on Syria in a bid to destroy its regime. But the Syrian regime stood fast and thwarted the plan on the Lebanese arena. There is a competition between the United States and Syria. Who knows, fighting might erupt between them.

Abu Salih said: Had 'Arafat's statement been true regarding a U.S.-Syrian plan, he would have never been worried. This is his plan and these are his objectives. Had Syria approved the U.S. plan, 'Arafat would have been in Damascus and we would have been in prison. Abu 'Ammar has linked himself with the U.S. plan.

In conclusion, Abu Salih said: Some wrongly believe that it is possible to obstruct the changes movement in Fatah. We will not stop until we liquidate the deviation and bring to account all those who betrayed the Palestinian people's struggle and tried to link the Palestinian revolution with the reactionary Arab regimes. We will bring 'Arafat to account even if he seeks the help of two-third of the world. He will not escape punishment by the people, because it was the people who inaugurated and imposed him [on us]. 'Arafat failed to defend the interests of his people and got involved in the reactionary plan.

GULF AFFAIRS

Joint Military Maneuvers End First Phase

GF150510 Manama Gulf Daily News in English 15 Oct 83 p 2

[Text] The first stage of Gulf states' first joint military maneuvers in the UAE have demonstrated the high standard of fighting capabilities enjoyed by the Gulf armed forces, military observers and commanders said in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

Commenting on military exercises undertaken by the armed forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council, a spokesman for the joint command of the forces said the states were "completely satisfied with the outcome." The UAE news agency quoted observers and commanders of the joint military exercises code named "Peninsula Shield" as a proof "that we are in position to fight effectively with the most sophisticated and modern weapons." The commanders highlighted the progress introduced into the fighting techniques of all land, air, and naval forces.

Final Phase Scheduled

GF150750 Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] The final stage of the Peninsula Shield [dar' al-jazirah] maneuvers, being held by the GCC Rapid Deployment Forces in the UAE, will be carried out today. GCC chiefs of staffs arrived in the country yesterday to attend the final stage.

Chiefs of Staff Arrive

LD150255 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Chiefs of staff of the armed forces and a number of defense ministry officials of GCC countries arrived today in Abu Dhabi to attend the final phase of the Peninsula Shield exercises that will be carried out tomorrow by units of the GCC armies. Units of the armies of the Kingdom, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the Sultanate of Oman are participating in the exercises.

Kuwait Delegation Arrives

LD141852 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1757 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Oct (KUNA) — A high-level Kuwaiti military delegation led by the assistant chief of staff for military operations, Brigadier General Muhammad al-Badri, arrived this afternoon to attend the final declaration of the Peninsula Shield exercises [ad-dir' al-jazirah] which will take place tomorrow. The delegation includes the commander of the 15th Brigade, Staff Colonel Jasim Shahab, and a number of senior officers in the Kuwait Army.

On arrival the delegation was met by the chief of the general staff of the UAE Armed Forces, Staff Brigadier General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi; chairman of the military committee at the GCC Permanent Secretariat, Brigadier General Yusuf al-Madani; and a number of UAE senior officers. Brig Gen al-Badri inspected the positions of the Kuwait force in the operations area where it is participating with military units from GCC countries in the Peninsula Shield exercises.

Maneuvers Said Successful

GF151815 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0924 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 15 Oct (WAKH) — The deputy commander in chief and chief of operations of the joint forces taking part in the "Peninsula Shield" exercises staged by the Rapid Deployment Force of the GCC countries in the UAE has said that the exercises have been totally successful. He said that important lessons will be learned from the exercises, lessons that will make it possible to know the form that the Rapid Deployment Force should take so that it can carry out its task in defending any of the GCC countries.

In a press interview published in today's issue of *Al-Ittihad* as part of reportage on the "Peninsula Shield" exercises that end today, the deputy commander in chief and chief of operations of the joint forces taking part in the exercises said that the exercises were well planned and coordinated, as they were the first strategic project implemented by the GCC countries. The GCC states selected officers and elements from the GCC countries and charged them with the task of planning and implementing the exercises in the UAE. He said that the exercises aim to improve the combat capability of the forces taking part and assess their fighting ability and to draw lessons for the future. The forces taking part in the exercises can participate in the defense of any GCC country when it is the target of external aggression without the need to call for outside assistance, he noted. He said that the forces taking part in the exercises were supported by the air forces, air defenses, and administrative elements from the UAE armed forces.

Gulf Security, Foreign Threats Examined

GF150802 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0725 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Oct (WAM) — In today's editorials, two local newspapers affirmed that Gulf security is the sole responsibility of its sons and that no country has the right to interfere in this vital region. They also called on Iraq and Iran to stop the war between them in order to keep the region away from the superpowers' ambitions and threats of military interference.

The newspaper *Al-Wahdah* said: Foreign countries are making plans and preparing armies to interfere in the Gulf region under the pretext of protecting it from dangers in order to achieve more influence and hegemony on other parts of the world and expand their gains and interests at the expense of those who allow them to do so. The paper asserted that the Gulf countries' commitment to their principled stand, based on the idea that the region's security is protected by its sons, is a firm stand which cannot be shaken. It called for keeping the region away from any alliances by the superpowers because "the presence of any military forces or armies of any superpower or foreign country on the land of another country that it considers its friend makes us ask about the use of such a friendship, especially if we take into consideration that these armies are under the command of their

country and move within a comprehensive plan to serve its political and economic interests."

The newspaper *Al-Fajr* expressed astonishment over the statements made daily to block navigation in the Gulf. The response to the efforts being made by many parties to stop the Iraq-Iran war by escalating the war and setting fire to the region will allow the superpowers to directly intervene under the excuse of insuring navigation in the Gulf, *Al-Fajr* said. The paper affirmed that the Gulf is not a private canal owned by one country, but is an international waterway used by many countries. The paper called on Iraq and Iran to respond to the international efforts to stop the war going on between them and settle differences, noting that "those who are self-confident and believe their stand is sound, and who have their rights and are seeking these rights, cannot fear negotiations because they are in fact part of the struggle and a way of reaching this through logic and intellect."

The newspaper said that talk about the dangers of closing the Gulf and blocking navigation through it is not a result of the fear of exporting oil, but lies in the superpowers' threat to intervene and turn the region into an area of hot conflict among these countries. "Every one of us knows very well the superpowers' intention to impose their hegemony on the region to deplete its resources; it is not logical to give them the justification while we can achieve peace in the whole region and keep it free and independent and owned by its sons," *Al-Fajr* concluded.

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives British Ambassador 15 Oct

GF151100 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Manama, 15 Oct (WAKH) — His Highness Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa received British Ambassador to Bahrain William Tomkys today. During the meeting they reviewed bilateral relations and means of strengthening them, along with issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah bin Salman al-Khalifa and Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

KUWAIT

USSR Weapons Delivery to Junblatt Forces Noted

LD170920 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0826 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Oct (KUNA) — A Kuwaiti newspaper said today that the Soviet Union has supplied the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party with a consignment of arms and ammunition in the "first direct contact" between the two sides.

Quoting diplomatic sources described as reliable, *Al-Anba'* said that a "Soviet ship unloaded a consignment of arms and ammunition at the Syrian port of Tartus for the benefit of the Progressive Socialist Party in Lebanon." However, the paper explained that these sources did not refer to the type of arms and ammunition, nor to the date of unloading; they only stated that the unloading operation took place at the beginning of this month. This deal was described as "the first direct contact between the Soviets and the leader of the party, Mr Walid Junblatt, without the participation of a third Arab party."

These sources expressed their belief that "the military pressure to which the National Forces' positions were exposed because of the American fleet's gunfire during the Jabal war have aided in realizing this direct relation between the Progressive Party and the Soviets." The paper noted that the arms in the hands of the Progressive Socialist Party's militia, including TU-54 tanks [as received] are of Soviet make.

Arab Gulf Action Urged Against U.S. 'Scheme'

LD150924 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Oct (KUNA) — *Al-Watan* has appealed to all peoples and countries of the Arabian Gulf to "move swiftly to combat the aggressive American scheme against the region." It said that this scheme has been planned according to the most important of Kissinger's theories, which says: "The urgent matters should be inflamed as a preparation for solving them, but the not so urgent matters can be simmered until their time comes."

Al-Watan said that the Gulf war was included in the priorities of the American Middle East policy along with the war in Lebanon and the Palestinian issue. The newspaper said: "In the light of Kissinger's theory, we can see that the U.S. Administration is preparing the stage in the Arabian Gulf and is trying to move the forgotten war to the forefront of events. It has ordered an American aircraft carrier and a number of naval units to go to the Gulf region before Iraq receives the five French planes."

The newspaper also pointed out the movements of British naval units and statements that the United States "will not allow the closure of the Hormuz Strait and will defend its own vital interests and those of its allies in the region." The newspaper stressed that "with this loud American propaganda, the United States will find an excuse to justify its intervention whether Iraq fulfills its threats of bombing the oil installations of Iran or not."

Al-Watan concluded by saying that Arab action must occur. The U.S. scheme "is not only aimed at usurping the oil wells, but it is also aimed at striking the independence of the Arab countries, returning colonialist control over their peoples, and enforcing the Israeli solution at their expense."

ARAB TIMES on Iranian Threat To Close Strait

GF141120 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 13-14 Oct 83 p 3

[Editorial: "World Will Pay if Jets Are Used"]

[Text] Iraq's four-year stand against Iran is considered a victory for the Iraqi people, Army, and political leadership. All the factors in favor of Iran made us assume that Iraq would be defeated. Iran is a vast country with a large population, and the social situation turned the war from a political to a religious one.

Iraq has withstood Iran for four years despite these unfavourable elements. It penetrated the Iranian borders and withdrew from these lands. It was staunch in defending its borders although its political leadership had a different outlook on the war from that of the Iranian leadership. Iraq has taken steps to safeguard its soldiers and people, but this is not the case with Iran, as is clear from the large number of casualties among Iranian soldiers. The Iranian leadership used unrealistic slogans to convince people to take part in the war.

Anyone with a knowledge of warfare knows that Iran has the elements of power with which to defeat Iraq. But the fact that Iraq faced the Iranian might showed that quality is sometimes more important than quantity, and that geographical depth or large population is not always an advantage.

Now the French warplanes have arrived in Iraq, and Iraq will find itself forced to use them if there is no alternative. The price will be paid by the world which ignored the dangers or used to sell weapons for strategic or ideological purposes. Nobody wants Iraq to use these planes, and nobody wants Iran to close the Hormuz Straits because this will threaten their interests and those of others. Everyone wants the war to stop, but this depends on the sense of the Iranians. Otherwise the world will someday call for the trial of the war criminals whose intentions are not yet known.

Cooperation Talks With Libya Scheduled

LD161423 Kuwait KUNA in English 1331 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 16 (KUNA) — Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn received at his office Sunday Secretary of the Libyan Public Utilities Committee Muhammad Ubayd Al-Shukri. The meeting was attended by the Kuwiati ambassador to Libya Ahmed al-Jasim and the Libyan ambassador here Husni al-Mudir.

This was followed by a meeting held at the Council of Ministers between the Libyan delegation, headed by Al-Shukri, and the Kuwaiti delegation, headed by Husayn. The meeting was attended by several officials from the Council of Ministers, and the ministries of foreign affairs, finance, oil, information, education, electricity and water, communications, public works and Awqaf, and Islamic affairs, in addition to the Kuwait Municipal Council. The ambassadors of the two countries also attended the meeting. The meeting dealt with bilateral relations and cooperation and means to develop them in various fields in continuation to what has been discussed during the visit of H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah to Libya in December 1981. Sub-committees were formed to follow up various issues relating to bilateral cooperation.

French Chief of Staff Arrives on Visit

LD142249 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Chief of Staff of the French Armed Forces General Jean Lacaze arrived in Kuwait this evening leading an high-level military delegation on an official 3-day visit. He was met at the airport by Chief of the Army General Staff Major General Abdullah al-Ghanim, senior Army officers, and the French ambassador to Kuwait.

Confers with Premier

LD151159 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0954 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Oct (KUNA) — French Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces General Jean Lacaze conferred here today with Kuwaiti Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah. There is no information about what took place in the meeting, which was attended by Kuwaiti Chief of General Staff Major General 'Abdallah Fraj al-Ghanim. The visiting military official arrived here last night heading a senior military delegation on a official 3-day visit.

Talks With Defense Minister

LD151744 Kuwait KUNA in English 1550 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 15 (KUNA) — Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah Saturday discussed with visiting French Chief of Staff Jean Lacaze ways to bolster military cooperation between Kuwait and France, an official report said. The meeting was attended by Defense Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yusuf al-Khamis and the French ambassador to Kuwait, the report said. The Kuwaiti defense minister visited Paris last April.

Later, the French leader had similar talks with Kuwait's Chief of Staff General [name indistinct] al-Ghanim, with the French ambassador attending, the report added. Lacaze then was the guest of honor at a luncheon banquet hosted by General al-Ghanim.

Military cooperation between France and Kuwait was also the major topic of a meeting earlier today between H.H. Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah and General Lacaze who arrived here Friday for a three-day visit.

Departs 16 October

LD161054 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] The French Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces General Jean Lacaze, left the country today at noon after a 3-day official visit to the country at the head of a military delegation. He was seen off at the airport by the Chief of the Army General Staff, Major General 'Abdallah Farraj Al-Ghanim, a number of senior officers, and the French ambassador to Kuwait.

Military Cooperation Stressed

GF171000 Doha QNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 17 Oct (QNA) — The Kuwaiti newspaper *Ar-Ra'y al-'Amm, quoting reliable sources, reports today that* Kuwait and France have agreed to continue consultations and coordination in the military field. The sources added that the French Armed Forces chief of staff, during his latest talks in

Kuwait, expressed his country's readiness to provide Kuwait and the GCC countries with modern weapons in accordance with the relationship that links France with the Gulf countries. The sources also pointed out that Chief of Staff Lacaze expressed his country's readiness to provide Kuwait with jet fighters, as agreed upon earlier, in addition to the other modern and sophisticated weapons which Kuwait desires, including surface-to-surface missiles, surface-to-air missiles, armored vehicles, and the like.

Delegation Returns From GCC Military Exercises
LD160338 Kuwait KUNA in English 1741 GMT 15 Oct 83

[By Captain Jassem al-Fadala]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 15 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Deputy Chief of Staff (?for military) Operations Brigadier Mohamed al-Badr, and the accompanying delegation, left here Saturday evening for Kuwait after attending the first Gulf joint military exercises.

The exercises, in which units from the six Gulf Cooperation Council states took part, came to a close earlier today after staging the fourth and concluding phase of its maneuvres using live ammunition. The final scheme, involving artillery, warplanes and ground forces, resembled defending definite targets against an invading force and the recapture of an enemy position. The operation, concluded in precision reflecting the high degree of cooperation and combat readiness of the participating units, was attended by Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy UAE Supreme Commander General Khalifa ibn Zayid, along with chiefs of staff in the GCC member-states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and the Sultanate of Oman, in addition to the host country, the UAE.

Meanwhile, UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Saturday awarded medals and decorations to units taking part in the mock games. The decree conferred the cooperation medal and decoration on Army chiefs of staff, commanders, officers and soldiers of six Gulf participant states "in appreciation of the good efforts made by all those who planned or carried out this massive military scheme, which truly reflected the sense of cooperation and responsibility and whose gratifying results will remain a source of pride for nationals of the Gulf region."

OMAN

Sultan Qabus Receives FRG Minister 15 Oct
GF151445 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received Juergen Meollemann, FRG minister of state for foreign affairs and chairman of the Arab-FRG Affairs League, this afternoon in His Majesty's office at As-Sib Palace. The meeting was attended by Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the FRG ambassador in the Sultanate.

FRG Officials' Departs
GF161400 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Juergen Meollemann, FRG minister of state for foreign affairs, left the country early today after a 3-day visit to the Sultanate during which he was honored by meeting with His Majesty Sultan Qabus. He delivered to him a message from the FRG president. He also held talks with Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs.

SAUDI ARABIA

Fahd-Kohl Talks Reaction, Results Viewed
LD151007 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Oct 83

[News and comment by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] Observers expect that the West German chancellor's visit to the Kingdom will lead to an effective result in light of the facts placed by the Saudi leadership before the German leader regarding the Arab-Israeli issue.

Reactions at the international level agreed on the result of visit recently paid by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to the Kingdom, when they said that what was heard by the West German chancellor from the Saudi leadership was bound to affect clearly West Germany's viewpoint in particular and that of the West European countries in general regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict. His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was concerned that Chancellor Helmut Kohl be given the true picture of the development of the conflict and the repercussions of these developments on the future of the Arab World's relations with West Europe. Both sides are concerned about their continuation in a way that is amicable to the two sides' national interest. Arabs do not, as their enemies say, want their friends to fight on their side and to be hostile toward those with whom Arabs are hostile, but what Arabs really want is a just perspective of their demands that are represented in the necessity of the Palestinian people regaining their rights and making Israel deal with the facts and its attempts to force its options through launching aggressive wars, as happened during its storming of Lebanon, whose territory it still occupies and uses as a basis for pressure and haggling in order to create a situation that would enable it to create and spread an atmosphere of disturbances and instability in the region. It is common knowledge that the German chancellor opposes the continued construction of Jewish settlements on Arab territories and considers this an obstacle to establishing peace, and that this obstacle has to be overcome. However, the new German Government's stand since Kohl's assumption of power attempts to support a neutral policy vis-a-vis the crisis. But what the observers expect after the German chancellor's visit to the Kingdom and his realization of the facts of matters through what was explained to him by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz is the beginning of a German move in the West European bloc. Maybe this move could go further to include the United States for the sake of reaching a form that would help in finding a just and lasting peace; a peace that must take into consideration the rights of the Palestinian people. No power can impose a

defacto situation on Arabs in the absence of these rights. This is the impression with which the German left following his meeting with the Saudi leadership.

Conclusion of 'Peninsula Shield' Maneuvers Eyed

GF161410 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] The newspapers *Al-Jazirah*, *Al-Madinah*, and *'Ukaz* wrote today about the "Peninsula Shield" maneuvers which have just concluded after successfully practicing the latest combined arms tactics.

The newspaper *Al-Jazirah* said that if the Arabs' strength in their unity is in harmony with political, economic, and military factors, then the element of military power is the foremost of those elements. It is the one which provides the required intrinsic Arab capability to secure the safety of the other elements while they are working together and developing in order to create a new Arab basis characterized by social, security, economic, and political stability. This development course continues in order to achieve development and comfort for us and the world around us. Thus, we, our brothers, and friends realize that the GCC leaders' efforts to achieve comprehensive unity among their countries and peoples is a real fact and affects the international level. If the intentions are sincere, the views agree, the desires united, and the goals in harmony, this helps achieve the Arab unity that affirms the unity of existence and unity of fate forever.

The newspaper *Al-Madinah* said that the "Peninsula Shield" maneuvers proved the capability and effectiveness of military coordination among the GCC countries in the same way that these countries have previously proved the effectiveness of their cooperation and coordination of their joint work in economic, educational, and political fields. The newspaper said: "With their armies and the help of their people, the GCC countries, God willing, are able to protect and defend the Gulf region under the region's leaders' lofty principles, which are respect for everyone and a sincere desire for joint cooperation that serves the region's peoples, the Arabs, and the Muslims in order to restore their glory."

The newspaper *'Ukaz* affirmed that the "Peninsula Shield" maneuvers are a step forward in the current cooperation among the GCC countries. They help construct an intrinsic Gulf power based on cooperation, coordination, and integration in the organization, armament, training, and planning fields. They also help determine the capability of the member-countries to fully carry out their duties to assure the security, safety, and stability of the region's states and to protect their accomplishments, acquisitions, and wealth. These forces bear their responsibility in serving the Arab nation and its causes, and are regarded as an inseparable effective and influential part of the Arab nation.

Prince Sultan Departs for Official Italy Visit

LD170928 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0843 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Jidda, 17 Oct (SPA) — The Second Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Aviation, and Inspector General, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, left Jidda this morning for Italy on an official visit during which he will have talks with Italian Government officials. His Royal Highness is accompanied on this visit by the Under Secretary for Political Affairs at the Foreign Ministry 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, and a number of officials.

Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz told SPA that this visit falls within the cooperation between the Kingdom and Italy. His Royal Highness pointed out that there is economic cooperation between the Kingdom and Italy and some military cooperation relating to Italian-produced arms. Prince Sultan expressed the hope that this cooperation will increase for the benefit of both sides. Regarding the extent of the European countries' contribution to turning the wheel of peace in the region, Prince Sultan affirmed that peace in the region belongs to people of the region itself and that the more they close their ranks and stand in solidarity the nearer peace will be.

UAE

AL-KHALIJ Criticizes 'U.S. Interference' in Gulf

GF170815 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0725 GMT 17 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 17 Oct (WAM) — An editorial in today's issue of *Al-Khalij* calls on the countries of the region to intensify their contacts with the Arab countries in order to firmly confront U.S. plans aimed at interfering in the Gulf region. The paper continues that the people of the region have exposed the U.S. intentions since these intentions are — as the U.S. secretary of defense says — designed to preserve the interests of the United States, Europe, Israel, and Japan. This implies that these plans are against the children of the Gulf and their interests. The paper refers to repeated U.S. attempts to militarily interfere in the Gulf either indirectly or directly by claiming that its interests, the interests of the free world, and the interests of Israel are jeopardized by the Iraq-Iran war. Concluding, *Al-Khalij* stresses that attaining Gulf security entails adopting a unified Arab position that meets only Arab interests and that is not subjected to any foreign interests whatsoever. The paper indicates that this can be achieved through the implementation of the Arab summit conference resolutions and through commitment to the Arab League Charter and the joint defense pact.

Heir Apparent Attends GCC Maneuvers

GF151000 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0645 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 15 Oct (WAKH) — His Highness Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, today attended the final stage of the "Peninsula Shield" maneuver being conducted by the GCC Rapid Deployment Force of the GCC armies on the UAE territory.

The final stage was attended by His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid, minister of defense; a number of ministers; and 'Abdallah Bisharah, GCC secretary general. It was also attended

by the GCC chiefs of staffs, senior armed forces and police officials, and a number of GCC ambassadors to the UAE.

PDRY

Defense Minister Receives USSR Military Official

GF151559 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Brigadier General Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the Central Committee and defense minister, today received Comrade Fleet Admiral Smirnov, first deputy commander in chief of the Soviet naval force and member of the Soviet delegation which is taking part in the festivities of the 20th anniversary of the revolution and the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the YSP. During this meeting the discussion focused on a number of issues which concern the Armed Forces in the two friendly countries. The meeting was attended by Colonel 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, deputy defense minister and chief of staff.

Heads of Foreign Delegations Received

GF161542 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Excerpts] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, this afternoon received Dr George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP; and Muhsim Ibrahim, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Action Organization. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad received their congratulations on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the 14 October Revolution and the 5th anniversary of the party's establishment. He also received Brother Muhammad Az-Zuwayy, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Interior and Justice, [name and title as received] and head of the Libyan delegation to the celebrations of our people on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of revolution. He conveyed to chairman 'Ali Nasir a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Cuba's Batista Meets PDRY Chairman, Departs

GF151443 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, yesterday received Brother Sixto Batista, head of the Cuban delegation taking part in the festivities of the 20th anniversary of the revolution and the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the party.

Brother Batista conveyed to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad the greetings and the congratulations of the Cuban leadership, particularly Comrade Fidel Castro, the secretary general of the Cuban Communist Party Politbureau and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, on the 20th anniversary of the revolution. During the meeting they also discussed relations between the two parties and the two friendly countries and means of bolstering them.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed satisfaction over the continuous development of the friendly Yemeni-Cuban relations and stressed the determination of our country, our party, and our government to develop and to expand these relations.

Brother Batista and his accompanying delegation left Aden after taking part in the celebrations of our people of the 20th anniversary of the 14 October Revolution and the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the YSP.

Chairman Receives YAR President's Message

GF151553 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today received Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, the vice president and head of the delegation from the northern part of the homeland which is participating in the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the 14 October Revolution. During the meeting Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani conveyed a message to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad from his Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland, which included congratulations on this occasion dear to our Yemeni people. He expressed his delight for the participation of our people in this part of the homeland in the revolution fetes. During this meeting they also discussed the progress of the executive unionist steps associated with the unity agreements and the results of the Yemeni Council meeting.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad stressed again that the agreements will be put into effect and that all the specialized sides in the southern part have been given the responsibility and have been committed to include the agreement within the scheduled work plans and that the next months will witness meetings of the concerned sides in the two parts in order to execute the agreement. Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani pointed out that the desire of the two political leaders in the two parts to achieve further joint cooperation in the various fields will result in further stability and developments for the Yemeni people. He also reviewed the Arab and the international situation in addition to the position of the two parts of Yemen.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad gave Brother 'Abd al-Ghani a reply message for his Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

YAR Delegation Departs

GF151554 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, vice president and member of the Standing Committee in the northern part of

the homeland, and his accompanying delegation left Aden today after taking part in the festivities of the 20th anniversary of the glorious 14 October anniversary.

YAR

U.S. Nuclear 'Bias' Against Arabs Criticized

GF150750 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] In its editorial today, the newspaper *Ath-Thawrah* commented on the new U.S. alliance with the Zionist entity represented yesterday in threatening the International Atomic Energy Agency with a boycott if it suspends or freezes the Zionist entity's membership. *Ath-Thawrah* said: This U.S. stand is reminiscent of all similar stands the United States has adopted at the United Nations and its organs and specialized bodies and organizations. When any one of them issued a resolution considering Zionism a form of racism, the United States became angry and considered it a big aggressive act. *Ath-Thawrah* added:

The United States always announces that it is against international terrorism at a time when Israel carries out barbaric, aggressive acts with the [word indistinct] U.S. arms against civilian targets and peaceful installations in a number of Arab countries. (?An example of this) is the Zionist-U.S. shelling of civilian installations in Lebanon and the bombing of nuclear installations in fraternal Iraq.

In this regard, the newspaper *Ath-Thawrah* said: We do not know the U.S. definitions of terrorism other than expelling a whole people from their land, usurping their property, killing their sons and pursuing their old men, women, and children, and committing brutal massacres which have been uglier than those of the fascists and nazism.

The newspaper said that the United States made a big furor when its diplomatic nationals were detained in Iran, to the extent that it threatened to start a world war for their sake, and today it is massing all its ships and aircraft carriers in Lebanese waters to protect about 1,300 of its troops working within the so-called "multinational force" against tens — indeed hundreds — of thousands of sons of Arab Palestinian people and Lebanese people or Arab nationals who have been subjected to annihilation and all forms of brutal liquidation at the Zionist enemy's hands.

Concluding, the newspaper asserted that the United States, which adopts such an inhumane, unjust, and totally biased stand, is no longer taking the Arab nation into any of its calculations. It called on the Arab nation to take all these facts of the U.S. stand toward their causes into consideration to preserve its existence and dignity.

AFP: Mubarak Reportedly To Visit Iraq's Husayn

NC130905 Paris AFP in English 0843 GMT 13 Oct 83

[Text] Doha, Qatar, Oct 13 (AFP) — President Husni Mubarak of Egypt will make an official visit soon to Iraq, with which diplomatic relations have been broken since the Camp David accord, the daily *Ar-Rayah* said here today quoting political sources.

He had been officially invited by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali would visit Iraq first to finalise arrangements.

Egypt and Iraq broke off diplomatic relations in 1979, following the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David accord, but since Mr Mubarak became president Cairo's relations with Baghdad have greatly improved.

Last August Egyptian Economy Minister Mustafa as-Sa'id visited Iraq.

Muhyi ad-Din Discusses Tabah, Elections

NC162138 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] During a meeting with NDP leaders in Cairo this evening, Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, prime minister and NDP secretary general, affirmed that the Tabah area is Egyptian and will return to Egypt. He also affirmed that Egypt is proud of its Arab character. He said there are contacts between Egypt and most of the Arab states. Economic and tourism relations between Egypt and these Arab states are growing steadily. There are currently about 3 million Egyptians working in the Arab states, earning about $2.8 billion annually.

Dr Muhyi ad-Din said Egypt is proud of the Egyptian-Sudanese integration, which has begun to play its strong role in implementing projects serving the two peoples' interests. He said that since President Husni Mubarak took office, the security and stability of the country has been achieved, democracy has been consolidated, and production has increased. Dr Muhyi ad-Din affirmed that the government is working to consecrate the principles of integrity and of providing a good example in all domains of national action.

Concerning the forthcoming People's Assembly elections, Dr Muhyi ad-Din said the NDP wants the elections to be a serious campaign in which democracy will be truly exercised without granting favors to anyone. The party that will win through the people and legality will stay.

Dr Muhyi ad-Din then explained the dimensions of President Mubarak's recent visit to France, the United Nations, and the United States.

Ghali Interviewed on Lebanon, Egypt, U.S. Role

NC151640 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Beirut, 15 Oct (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, asserted that one of the main aims of President Husni Mubarak's latest visits to Paris, New York, and Washington was to work for finding a peaceful solution to the Lebanese problem. In a statement to the Lebanese weekly magazine *Al-Usbu' al-'Arabi*, Ghali pointed out that Egypt is continuing diplomatic efforts for achieving peace in Lebanon and a solution to the Palestinian issue, which is the real factor for peace in the Middle East. In this respect, Dr Ghali said it is difficult to separate the Lebanese and Palestinian problems because they are linked. He said now that a cease-fire has been achieved in Lebanon, the foundation for solving the Lebanese problem must be laid, although it is a difficult problem and requires great patience for a firm solution.

Ghali affirmed that Egypt will spare no efforts to achieve peace in Lebanon. He pointed out that Egypt's stand on the Lebanese issue is firm. Egypt consistently demands that all foreign forces withdraw from Lebanon, and emphasizes that if Israel withdraws first, it will facilitate the withdrawal of all other forces. He said if Israel withdraws from Lebanon, the Arab countries will exert pressure on Syria to withdraw. He said it would not be difficult to reach an Arab stand demanding Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon when Israel withdraws from there.

Ghali affirmed that Egypt will confront attempts to partition Lebanon; that it is concerned about Lebanon's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and full independence; and that it recognizes only President Amin al-Jumayyil's government. He pointed out that Egypt is in constant contact with the United States, France, Britain, and Italy to find a solution to the Lebanese problem.

He said Egypt calls for increasing the Multinational Force and for expanding its deployment in the new areas from which the Israeli forces are withdrawing. Ghali further said Egypt is intensifying its direct contacts with various Lebanese leaders and leaders of certain Arab countries, and is also in touch with the PLO and its leader, Yasir 'Arafat. He pointed out that Egypt drew the attention of a number of friendly countries to the importance of holding contacts with Syria, because it is an important element in solving the crisis.

On the French-Egyptian plan for peace in the Middle East, Ghali said the plan is a solution that Egypt keeps as a reserve, and Egypt is ready to submit it again provided that the concerned states and parties — the United States, Lebanon, and the PLO — agree on it. Ghali lauded President Reagan's peace plan, saying it is the only existing plan that permits a solution to the Middle East problem and is linked to the United States and its role, which is a basic role in solving the Lebanese crisis and the Palestinian problem.

President Meets French Media Representatives
JN142018 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Interview granted by President Saddam Husayn to French media representatives on 13 October in Baghdad; questions and answers are translated sentence by sentence from Arabic into French — recorded]

[Text] [Saddam Husayn] I welcome our friends from a friendly country.

[Unidentified speaker] Leader President, in accordance with your personal wish to invite a group of friends representing the French press, news agency, and television, these friends are here and include the representatives of: *Le Monde, Le Figaro, Le Tribune du Paris, Liberation, Le Matin, Paris Match, Le Point, Le Nouvel Observateur, Le Nouveau Journal, Le Progres, Telegram, Le Croix*, French Television Channel One, French Television Channel Three, Radio France, Radio France-Inter, Radio Monte Carlo French Service, Radio Monte Carlo Arabic Service, AFP, AGENCE PARISSIEN DE PRESSE, Sigma Photo Service, Gama Photo Service, (Eva) Photo Service.

Their questions are divided into four categories. The first category of questions deals with Iraq and the war with Iran. They are as follows:

Has the war affected the coexistence of the various communities and nationalities in Iraq?

Has the Iraqi leadership been astonished by Iran's ability to continue the war, and how do you explain this Iranian ability?

Has Iraq taken into account the possibility of another world power entering the current war, and how could that take place?

It is understood that the war entered its fourth year last September. How long, in your opinion, can the Khomeyni regime continue to fight?

Are your relations with the USSR currently going through a good phase, and is the USSR continuing to supply Iraq with arms? Also, is Iraq pleased with this cooperation?

Where do Arab mediation attempts to end the war stand now, and have the mediation attempts of Algeria, Kuwait, and the UAE achieved any results so far?

What are the costs borne by Iraq as a result of the continuation of the war, and is the Iraqi economy suffering much from these costs?

What is Iraq's oil production now, and what are the rates of export? Furthermore, where do the export operations take place and to what destinations? Can the FAW terminal be reopened soon?

Is Iraq awaiting a new French initiative to expedite the peace process in the Gulf area?

Do you believe that the Iranians will succeed in carrying out their threat to close the Strait of Hormuz?

It is understood that Iraq has received financial aid from the Arab states since the outbreak of the war. Can you give us an idea of the dimensions of this aid and also tell us if it is continuing at present? What is your opinion of the position of the Arab states?

If the Iranian side insists on continuing the war, does Iraq have the means to impose a cease-fire along the entire front?

nidentified speaker continues]The second category deals with the issue of the French Super Etendard planes.

Have the Super Etendard planes arrived in Iraq? How many planes have arrived, and where are they now? When did the planes arrive? Did they arrive complete or dismantled? Did the planes arrive fitted with equipment?

[Saddam Husayn, interrupting] We must ask him what fuel it uses and what kind of arms it has.

[Unidentified speaker] Have the planes arrived fully equipped? Were the planes accompanied by French pilots or technicians? [Unidentified speaker repeats the previous question]

Iraq has said that world public opinion did not seriously meet its responsibility to end the war and to force the Tehran government to agree to a peaceful solution to the conflict.

[Saddam Husayn, interrupting] I believe we have reached a new category.

[Unidentified speaker] Your Excellency, we are still in the second category.

[Husayn] Super Etendard [words indistinct].

[Unidentified speaker] No, this is finished and this category follows the seven questions.

[Husayn] That means this is the third.

[Unidentified speaker] This is the second category. This talk belittles France's role of extending aid to Iraq, the latest example of which was the Super Etendard planes, as well as its role at the UN Security Council. When will Iraq use such planes and what tasks will they perform? Can you explain to us whether Iraq has bought or borrowed the planes from France?

The French journalists would like to fulfill their wish of seeing the French planes on the ground at an Iraqi airfield. Is this possible? Does Iraq believe that the arrival of the planes will help to achieve peace and end the war?

Another question: Does the Iraqi-French agreement on the planes include French conditions specifying their use? Will French pilots perform combat duties during future battles? [Unidentified speaker repeats previous question]

It was reported in France yesterday that Iraq Ilyushin planes left Chateauroux Airport in France. Is it possible to explain if the planes were carrying special equipment for the Super Etendard or any other military equipment? The last question in the second category: Do you believe that Israel will feel that its security is threatened following the arrival of the planes?

The third category: With the Iraqi-Iranian war entering its fourth year, how pleased are you with the GCC states' help for Iraq, particularly in the current stage? Is it true that the Arab countries continue to help? What is the amount of this help? What do you think of the stands of these countries? What is the present situation regarding relations with Syria? What does Iraq expect from the United Nations regarding the war?

Was French-Iraqi cooperation during President Mitterrand's rule unexpected as far as Iraq was concerned? How can you establish concurrent friendly relations with the French president and Jacques Chirac? Has Iraq reached agreement with French civilian establishments to set up industrial projects in the future?

Does Iraq expect more military equipment from France, such as helicopters, tanks, and artillery? It was previously reported that a Turkish plane crashed in northern Iraq. Is it possible to explain the circumstances of that incident, and who shot it down?

The fourth category. This will deal with the Palestinian issue and Lebanon. What is Iraq's current position on the PLO? Do you believe that Yasir 'Arafat will continue to lead the organization until January, which marks its 20th anniversary? What is Iraq's current relationship with Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]? What is Abu Nidal's position on the PLO's (?differences)? Do you agree with the opinion that the internal PLO dissension will contribute to an escalation of terrorist operations? [Unidentified speaker repeats previous question]

It is said that Damascus stands to benefit most from the Lebanese crisis. Do you agree with this view? What is your opinion of Lebanon's current situation and Syria's role in these events?

Mr President, the French journalists have asked two questions of you personally: Is it possible to attend one of your meetings with the Iraqi masses to learn of the firm interaction between the Iraqi people and their leadership following 3 years of war? The Western world knows only the official image of President Saddam Husayn. Is it possible to report on your personal life as the head of an Iraqi family?

[Husayn] Let us deal with the Super Etendard plane within a wider context than your question indicated. There has been a great clamor recently over the Super Etendard. You know that the plane does not carry nuclear weapons and that Iraq has no nuclear weapons. We can also say that the Super Etendard does not carry any internationally banned weapons. The plane carries equipment and weapons that are known to the French and to [words indistinct]. Why did certain big powers exert pressure on France to make it rescind its commitment to and agreements with Iraq regarding this plane?

Regardless of Iraq's interests, let us ask: Where do France's interests lie? Do the interests of France and the French people lie in remaining committed to or in abandoning this agreement?

In order to answer these questions, I must briefly answer the questions in a general way. You know the seriousness of the Middle East situation. By seriousness I basically mean that both of us know that he who controls Middle Eastern affairs is largely capable of controlling the world, particularly the Western world. You know that in addition to strategic considerations in the Middle East, the Western world and Japan are unable to dispense with Middle East energy sources. The Middle East is a vital communications center for all aspects of commercial and military strategies. The Middle East is a big market for distributing goods and for solving serious crises involving the export of Western and Japanese products, as well as products from other places in the world, to this region.

Can France then please the French when its role in the Middle East is diminished? The answer is, of course, no. I do not believe that it is too difficult for any Frenchman to understand these factors and their impact on France and the world. In the past, France's role was a colonialist one, and it was rejected by Third World countries and the Middle East people. France abandoned this role. Now, France's role in the region is measured by the number of its friends in the region; the size of France's trade in the region is also measured by the number of its friends in the region. Safeguarding France's interests in the region is also linked to the dimensions of its friendship in the region. In the field of commerce and trade relations, you know that French traders are not the world's best. Thus, an increase in commerce in the region in favor of the French can only be achieved by the establishment of serious political relations between France and several important Middle East countries.

Let us deal with the Middle East and discuss the French position regarding its independence. We will see that the two big powers have the greatest influence in the Middle East, and that the friends there are almost divided between them. Therefore, when France gains a new friend, that will benefit its interests that are completely linked to the world [sentence as heard]. If France loses a friend, its interests will suffer; any possible friend of France will also be affected by this loss.

Thus, what would happen if France did not honor its commitments and agreements, particularly regarding a country such as Iraq, which has clear and firm stands? Obviously, France's friendship with Iraq will suffer. In such a case, others who want to be independent and not satellites of any of the two main axes — the American and Soviet axes — will think that they have no choice but to join one of the two axes. This is because even the French have been influenced by U.S. pressure and the pressure of the United States' allies to abandon their commitments to a country that has been their friend for a long time — Iraq.

In such a case, France would lose a great deal, not only in the Middle East, but in the whole of the Third World. Iran under Khomeyni or after Khomeyni, in wartime or in peacetime,would not respect France. You also know that Iraq is defending itself

and seeking peace, while Iran is attacking and adhering to war. The international community has expressed its desire for peace through all international and regional conferences, and also from the rostrum of the UN Security Council. Iran has rejected this desire on more than one occasion.

Therefore, if France abides by its contracts and pledges to Iraq, it will be expressing true friendship, the interest of the French people, and the world's desire for peace. On the basis of this analysis, we have never doubted that the French officials will abide by their pledges concerning this plane or anything else. This is because the French officials are true patriots. They are fully aware of the factors and indications of international politics. At the same time, they know that if not checked, the plague from Iran will destroy regional and international interests in this region. An effective defense policy compels the attacker to accept a fait accompli that is acceptable to the world public. Therefore, when considered on the basis of these concepts, this plane and other French weapons imported by Iraq are not for war, but for peace.

There is an uproar about Iran's threats to close the Strait of Hormuz. I do not rule out this possibility, but I also know that such a crazy act would lead the Iranian officials to suicide. But have those behind this uproar asked themselves if such an Iranian action would be legitimate or illegitimate under international law and before the world public? If the world public submitted to such blackmail, would this be the last Iranian threat?

Today they are saying that they are closing the Gulf because France is selling Super Etendard planes to Iraq. Tomorrow they will say that the United States is not selling them an adequate quantity of grain under their own terms [words indistinct] in my opinion, a crazy man must not be appeased to such an extent. The correct thing is to put the crazy man in a lunatic asylum under strict guard. If the Westerners submit to such blackmail, they will be exposing themselves to an endless disaster. Therefore, we will continue to be confident that the French will abide by their pledges, irrespective of all the details of the questions you have asked.

As to how we will use this plane and whether there are French restrictions on using it, you know that we do not purchase arms only from France, but from several countries. We reject any conditions on our arms. These are our arms. The arms that we purchase with our money are used in accordance with our view of the international factors — world interests, stability, and also our national interests. These arms are used for the sake of peace; in other words, the aggressor must understand that he must accept an end to the war.

Dialogue goes on all the time between friends. They exchange viewpoints within the context of friendship and mutual respect. But there are no conditions between friends. If for the sake of argument we agreed to use the arms under certain conditions, then we would be carrying out the policy of the country providing us with the arms and not our policy. You know that we are an independent country. We do not carry out anyone's policy. If for the sake of argument France put certain conditions on the use of these arms and Iraq agreed to that, then it would mean that France had entered the war on Iraq's side. And this is not in France's interest.

When the Super Etendards arrive, and under the appropriate circumstances, we will let you see these planes in the future. In any case, you must have seen the plane because it is made in France. Furthermore, these are not the only planes that France agreed to sell us for use against naval targets and installations. We have a complete squadron of F-1 planes equipped with Exocet missiles that can perform the same tasks. However, in accordance with our contracts, the equipment for these planes is supposed to arrive later than the equipment of the Super Etendards.

In any case, world public opinion must put pressure on Iran to make it respond to peace moves and not blame France for its honorable, responsible stand. Regardless of the details, we in Iraq cherish special respect for France. Future Iraqi generations will consider this French stand from the political and other viewpoints. The French stand has been tested in difficult circumstances and found to be a friendly stand. It has become obvious to the Iraqis and to those who comment on the Iraqi-French friendship that Iraq's position on its friendship has been correct, and that its evaluation of this friendship was right.

We have not been surprised by President Mitterrand's stand because we know that President Mitterrand is sincere with France, is enlightened, and is a man of principle. You may ask how we can be friends with both Mitterrand and Chirac. Is it taboo to have more than one friend in international politics and within one state? Is it not possible for the ordinary human being to have more than one friend? I think that Iraqi and French officials must be friends with each other because in this friendship they sincerely and patriotically express the interests of the two peoples.

I think we have covered the subject of the Super Etendards.

[Unidentified speaker] [words indistinct]

[Husayn] On the same subject? We do not want to rob you of the opportunity to ask other questions. We have no time to speak indefinitely.

[Unidentified speaker] I have not yet understood whether the planes have arrived in Iraq or not.

[Husayn] You need not understand this. The timing is not necessary. It is not important to know how and when they will arrive — flying, or in pieces and parts. We are certain that France will adhere to its contracts and we will use these planes within the framework we spoke about.

[Unidentified speaker] Mr President, when will the delivery be made? When was the contract signed?

[Husayn] The date of the signing of the contract is known to you. We are not accustomed to speaking about our military contracts. This is the first time we have spoken about our military contracts in this frank manner. In any case, the planes' delivery date should not be later than this month.

[Unidentified speaker] Why isn't Iraq restoring its relations with the United States?

[Husayn] This is a new, different question. It is outside the framework of our current answers. When we come to this subject, we will answer this question. Therefore, let us move on to a category of questions.

[Unidentified speaker] Has France demanded restrictions on the use of these planes?

[Husayn] It seems that you have not been with us. I have answered this question.

[Unidentified speaker] I mean did France itself demand restrictions?

[Husayn] I have answered this question sufficiently. If France demanded such things, we would not have established relations with it. We would not have called it a friend and would not have bought anything from it because we do not accept conditions on goods, commodities, or on any of the material we purchase, including military material. I have said that dialogue between friends and exchanging viewpoints is something else. It is legitimate to exchange views and discuss things, but we reject conditions.

[Unidentified speaker] Does this mean that if France, for example, refused to give...

[Husayn, interrupting] Let us move to other questions. This is clear. My words are clear. You asked if the war has affected the coexistence of nationalities and sects in Iraq. The answer is yes, it has affected it positively. The Iraqis now live as a united people in the manner in which all patriots in the world wish their people to live.

We are not saying that we do not have sects or various ethnic groups and religions in our country. However, these sects, ethnic groups, and religions have acquired their natural and legitimate meaning. At the same time, the Iraqi citizens' right and duties have a special, enlightened, and accurate meaning in the spirit and behavior of the Iraqis.

Regarding the fighting, reporters, whether in France or anywhere else, have asked if the Iraqi command took into account the fact that Iranians would continue the fighting until now. Instead of asking this question, everyone should have expressed his astonishment at how the Iraqis have managed to repulse this barbaric wind from Iran led by Khomeyni. We think that the world should express its appreciation and gratitude for the Iraqi role because the world might have been violently rocked by Iran's expansionist ambitions in the Gulf and elsewhere had it not been for Iraq's magnificent steadfastness.

You know that war is war and has its costs and sacrifices. Therefore, it was normal for the Iraqi economy to be burdened by the war. However, when we look closely at the basic pillars of the Iraqi economy we will be absolutely convinced that a bright future awaits it, and that the moment the war ends the Iraqi economy will begin a new stage of prosperity, even though it is strong now. Regarding our brothers in the Gulf states and in the GCC, they were and still are extending economic and monetary aid and facilities to us. By doing this, they are executing a national and fraternal duty. This is because the danger threatening Iraq is also directed against everyone, not only agaisnt Iraq. We appreciate our brothers' stand.

Our relations with the USSR are currently good, and they are continually developing. Initiatives by Algeria, Kuwait, and the UAE have, regrettably, been fruitless. Naturally, because we and the world are waiting, France, the big powers, and the members of the Security Council must adopt a serious and clear stand on the war. You also ask if the Iranians will close the Strait of Hormuz.

I believe that if the Iranians close the Hormuz Strait, they will be closing it on themselves. This is because there is nothing left in Iran except a quantity of oil that they export in order to buy weapons. You know that the world is capable of compensating for the oil that is transported through the Strait of Hormuz by increasing production in Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Nigeria, and Libya, and even outside OPEC. However, how would Iran to compensate for the loss of its main source? Moreover, how can Iran close the Strait of Hormuz when most of its imports arrive through this strait? Also, the Iranians realize that trade between them and neighboring countries will be adversely affected by such action.

The Iranians depend on everything related to arms shipments, and they do not have great reserves like we have because we have destroyed their reserves. One of the main factors that makes them take a such long time between battles is that they wait for the arrival of new shipments of arms and equipment to enable them to fight a new battle. Therefore, how will they face life and the war if they embark on such an insane move?

It is clear that trade in the Indian Ocean, as far as Iran, the Gulf, Pakistan, and Turkey are concerned, will be adversely affected if Iran embarks a such move. This will provoke world public opinion and will force the countries that are directly harmed — the Gulf states — to legitimately urge their friends to pressure and blockade Iran as the punishment it deserves for violating international law.

However, Khomeyni is a crazy man and resembles Don Quixote. He might embark on such a move to attract world public opinion for 1 or 2 weeks, or 1 or 2 months. After that, their fate will be similar to that of those who lock themselves up in a safe. They will either die or be forced to open the safe, if the others cannot open it for them.

As for the Gulf states, they have sufficient financial assets. Also, in view of their close ties with Saudi Arabia, the latter can make up for all their losses or for a major part of these losses by increasing production. Therefore, the loser would be Iran. That would be a lesson to the one who tries to tamper with international laws and tries to close this vital international waterway in the manner declared by the Iranians.

As you know, Iran continues with the war. The best way to stop the war is for the world to show real solidarity against Iranian

aggression. At the same time, Iraq should be strong enough to make it impossible for the Iranians to achieve the objectives they think are within their reach. I believe that the Iraqi people's splendid steadfastness has led to the worsening of the military and political situation in Iran. This situation will further worsen in the near future.

Do you have any comments to make on this category before we move to the next category of questions?

[Unidentified speaker] Mr President, regarding the funds the Gulf states have given you, this is urgent and immediate aid. But the question we would like you to answer is: When will you be able to increase the oil flow through the pipeline to Turkey, which is a permanent thing?

[Husayn] We now produce 1.1 million barrels daily. About 800,000 barrels are pumped daily through Turkey. The oil flow through this pipeline will be increased next year in light of the new improvements. At the same time, our Saudi brothers have agreed to the building of a pipeline to the Red Sea.

[Unidentified speaker] When will the work on this new project begin?

[Husayn] Contacts are currently under way with the companies in order to reach an agreement and to work out the technical details with our Saudi brothers. We have formed a committee under the first deputy prime minister to follow up on the details of this subject. If finally agreed upon, this project will fall under the Major Development Projects Law No 57, which provides for facilities to expedite the implementation of the project. As part of this project, our Saudi brothers have agreed to permit us to use a spare pipeline they have. Thus, we will only have to build an Iraqi pipeline to link up to the Saudi pipeline. This pipeline can be built in a short period, from 6 months to 1 year. We have also signed an agreement with Jordan to transport crude oil in tankers through Jordan. Our industrial and agricultural production is making steady progress. So you can see, there is a bright future for the Iraqi economy.

[Unidentified speaker] Under what circumstances and when would the Iranian oil terminals in Kharg be attacked?

[Husayn] We are acting in light of the requirements of our national interests and the Iranian position on the peace efforts. This is because the destruction of the Kharg terminal will deprive the Iranians of their oil resources for years, not months.

[Unidentified speaker] You said a short while ago that the Iraqi people's steadfastness has led to the worsening of the Iranian military situation...

[Husayn, interrupting] I said the military and political situation.

[Unidentified speaker] And that it will become even worse in the near future. How will this situation worsen?

[Husayn] If they continue with their present attitude, then we do not doubt that they will collapse. The continuation of the war will lead to an accumulation of unresolved problems. As you know, the Iranian regime cannot solve the problems of the direct war and at the same time solve the problems of the internal political and economic situation.

[Unidentified speaker] Is it correct that contacts or talks were held recently with Syria to reopen the oil pipeline that runs through Syria to the Mediterranean Sea?

[Husayn] Our Arab brothers are holding contacts with us and Syria to settle the relations between the two countries. Syria has not refused to discuss the subject, and Iraq has not refused to discuss this subject. This is all we can say about Iraqi-Syrian relations.

In fact, our military contracts with France are not confined to the Super Etendards. We have other contracts on other types of weapons. As I said, France is implementing these contracts satisfactorily. There are no obstacles. A Turkish plane crashed recently in northern Iraq. The Turks made official statements on the reasons and circumstances surrounding the crash. Therefore, I have nothing to add to or amend the Turkish statements.

You ask about the Lebanese situation. You know that the Lebanese situation is complicated. There are the super and big powers. They are fighting each other by proxy. They fight by proxy both with regard to the clashes among states and the clashes among the organizations. The word "proxy" applies to states as well as to organizations. We support the unity of the Lebanese people and territory. We demand that the foreign and external forces leave Lebanese territory. We do not consider the Arabs to be foreigners. We also support Lebanese legitimacy if it takes such a course. Therefore, we call for a unified position between the Lebanese Army and presidency. We call for controlling the sectarian practices and struggles. We demand that the government and the army not be biased. We call on and would like to help the Lebanese legitimate authority to gather the independent Lebanese persons and organizations around it in order to face the given situation that is affected by this or that foreign or outside state.

We also call on the world to help Lebanon and its legitimate authority on the basis of these concepts. Therefore, Israel must unconditionally leave Lebanon. Other outside forces must also leave. The Lebanese people must be left to decide their own fate without outside pressure. This is our position.

We believe that the fragmentation of the PLO helps to spread international terrorism because a strong organization that seeks a respectable position in the world will be forced to take into account the trend in world public opinion. However, the fragments, splinters, and small organizations do not take this into account. Therefore, we believe that the attempts to split the PLO will lead to instability in the region and to spreading terrorism in the world, among other things. We support PLO unity and 'Arafat's leadership because we were committed to this at an Arab summit conference in 1974.

Abu Nidal is a leader of one of the Palestinian wings or organizations. On the Palestinian level, we used to help the Palestinians and the Arabs when our financial position was sound. We did not hesitate to help them. Due to the circumstances of the war and

our present financial position, we stopped our financial assistance to some and reduced our assistance to some others. Abu Nidal and his organization are among those who do not receive any financial or nonfinancial assistance from us.

Syria deals with the Lebanese situation from a shortsighted viewpoint. This viewpoint is bound to greatly harm Arab relations and the fraternal Lebanese people. Regardless of our analyses and our views concerning its regime, Syria has been considering its presence in Lebanon to be one of the cards it is using in the region and international politics. In any case, you know that our policy is based on rejecting and resisting any state's interference in the internal affairs of another state, whether it is an Arab or non-Arab state. I think we have covered your questions tonight.

[Unidentified speaker] Mr President, I have asked a question on why you don't restore your relations with the United States. Actually, what I wanted to say is that you have relations with the United States, but why don't you normalize these relations?

[Husayn] I have answered this question more than once on other occasions, but there is no harm in repeating my answer. The United States of America is a big power, and naturally we should have diplomatic relations with that country. However, in the past the United States behaved irresponsibly in the region and was biased in favor of Israel and against the Arabs. This caused our relations with it to be severed.

Someone is perhaps asking: Is it not better if you restore relations with the United States and at the same time adhere to your stand? The answer is yes, this can happen. We thought of this before the outbreak of the war. However, when the war broke out, we no longer discussed this issue at command level. This is because we felt that if relations between us and the United States were restored, the motives behind such a move might be misinterpreted as a case of weakness in the Iraqi position that necessitated restoring relations with the United States irrespective of pan-Arab principles.

Despite that, our relations with the Americans developed through mutual eagerness. Views were increasingly exchanged at the ministerial and lower levels. The two countries' missions were provided with better facilities than in the past. They appointed a capable diplomat as their charge d'affaires, and we appointed a good party comrade who was the Information Ministry under secretary as our charge d'affaires in the United States as a sign of interest in the relations between the two countries. However, our relations suffer from setbacks from time to time, the latest of which was the Americans' stand in exerting pressure on France regarding the Super Etendard plane. When we discussed this issue with them, it seemed that they are now more reserved in exerting pressure on France with regard to this plane. [sentence as heard] Despite that, whenever we feel that the time is appropriate for our decision to restore our relations with the United States to be understood, that our motives are similar to theirs, and that the restoration of relations is suitable for national and pan-Arab interests, then we will do this — either after the war or while the war is still going on.

[Husayn] Let the brother who has not had his question answered ask it so that he will not be displeased with us.

[Unidentified speaker] Mr President, the journalist says that in the event that France does not deliver the Super Etendard planes, will our position on commercial trading with France be different?

[Husayn] Yes. Naturally, if France did not honor its commitments and obligations, this would adversely affect Iraqi- French relations and French relations with Third World countries. This is because one of the bases of sound friendship is for the friends to honor their commitments and obligations. Friends cannot view their interests by disregarding the interests of their friends. Friends cannot be friends on ordinary occasions and not friends on others. Iraq made friends with France during unusual circumstances, before France made friends with Iraq. You know this, and it is not only the French officials who know this. Friends must honor their commitments.

[Unidentified speaker] Your Excellency, he asks you about your opinion of Iraqi-French relations.

[Husayn] Relations are excellent.

[Unidentified speaker] After France promised to deliver the planes, it delayed the delivery for a long time. What impact will this have on relations?

[Husayn] If you signed an oil agreement with Iraq — and this goes back to 1973 — and if Iraq honored its obligations, what would your feelings be as a French citizen? We do not want the friendship to be confined to political levels. We want it to be a friendship between the two peoples, in order to give it a character of continuity and deep roots.

[Husayn continues] Therefore, we want — and the French citizens should also want — that the media not be believed when they say that the delivery of the planes has been postponed because France has been pressured, contrary to its national policy, by the United States and Britain, for example. Even then, the friendship is not so simple that a friend may be displeased if the delivery of a commodity or material is postponed for a few days or a few weeks, for example. However, the Iraqis are very sensitive to this issue.

If the planes are delayed due to a delay in production — for clear reasons — the issue will be different. But if they are delayed because other states are pressuring France, this will make the Iraqis worry about France's independence. They will be worried over French decisionmaking because it would be responsive to outside pressures. You also know that when we approached France, we did not do so because we did not possess weapons or because we had no sources of arms there. We approached France in order to strengthen our independence. If we find that France postponed or changed its commitments because of pressure from foreign states, then we would be worried about all French commitments. If this happens, it will be a bad example for all Third World countries.

[Unidentified speaker] Can I ask a question, Mr President?

[Husayn] Yes, and it will be the last one.

[Unidentified speaker] You have just said that in any case the planes' delivery will take place before the end of this month.

[Husayn] This has been agreed on.

[Unidentified speaker] Let us assume that they are not delivered this month. Will you lose your patience?

[Husayn] I have sufficiently answered this question. I spoke about the standards of relations and friendships and how friends should deal with each other. How can I indulge in small details and preconceived conclusions?

[Unidentified speaker] The agreement stipulates delivery before the end of this month?

[Husayn] We are supposed to receive the planes before the end of this month.

[Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct]

[Husayn] I think that 2 hours are enough for our friends. I hope that we will meet in the future. Please convey our greetings to the friendly French people. Please convey our appreciation to the French president and government for their delicate, friendly, principled, and practical stand. There is wide scope for the strong French-Iraqi friendship. This friendship will be in the interest of the two sides and will reflect on the two countries' relations with the Third World countries and the world. You are welcome. God be with you.

[Unidentified speaker] Have Super Etendards been lent in addition to the purchased ones?

[Husayn] The French officials have already talked about the contract. We have nothing to add to their statements. The planes mentioned in the contract will become Iraqi planes if their price is paid and when Iraq becomes committed to principles [words indistinct]

[Unidentified speaker] This is a dumb question. [laughter] While waiting for the purchased planes to arrive, have the planes that were lent arrived?

[Husayn] We have answered this question. We have no planes with unknown names. We have Super Etendards and F-1's. We have answered your questions. Is this a new press conference? [laughter]

[Unidentified speaker] Are you disturbed by the French delay?

[Husayn] No, but when the issue was subjected to international pressure by the United States and the British — who have done the most, I think — we held a discussion with the Frnech officials. They assured us that they would respect and honor their commitments.

'Aziz on Super Etendards, Threat From Iran

NC141746 Paris AFP in English 1729 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Paris, Oct 14 (AFP) — Iraq hopes to avoid being forced to use French Super-Etendard [word indistinct] in its war against Iran, Iraqi Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said in an interview published here today.

"What matters most is not the use of force, but the fact that other interested parties are aware that force might be used, and know what it might cost them if it is," Mr. 'Aziz told the Paris-based Arabic weekly *Al-Mustaqbal*.

France has said it will deliver five of the planes — which if fitted with Exocet sea-skimming missiles could reportedly be used to strike at Iranian oil interests in the gulf — to Iraq.

The deal has sparked fears that Iran may carry out a threat to close the strategic sea passage into the gulf through the Strait of Hormuz if Iraq uses the planes to harm its oil exports.

Referring to the Iranian threat, Mr 'Aziz said that halting navigation in the gulf "would harm the interests of the Soviet Union, of France, the United States and many other countries."

"This is what has influenced us to increase our political and diplomatic efforts to convince the two super-powers, and in particular the United States, to act to guarantee the freedom of navigation in the gulf," he added.

"It is in everybody's interest that the war stop because its continuation and the military escalation, as well as the Iranian counter-attack which could follow could only lead to an economic catastrophe... which would in particular boost the price of crude oil [word indistinct] times its current level," Mr. 'Aziz said in the interview.

"Iraq is capable, as soon as it takes delivery of the planes, of reminding the world that the war has been going on a long time in the hope that the parties concerned will act and that Iran will reverse (its policy)," he added.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said yesterday that he expected the five planes to be delivered by the end of the month.

Mr. 'Aziz, who recently met with United States Secretary of State George Shultz in New York, stressed the United States' desire for a rapid settlement of the three-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Criticizing "deliveries of arms to Iran by America — either directly or indirectly through its allies," Mr. 'Aziz said: "If the United States really wants to stop the war, it knows what it has to do."

"The Soviet Union has always expressed its will to see a rapid end to the conflict, and has indicated through the media its satisfaction at Iraq which has not only accepted several plans for a settlement, but has put forward others," he added.

'Aziz Reportedly Makes Secret Visit to Paris

GF161344 Doha QNA in Arabic 1103 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Oct (QNA) — In a report from Paris, the Kuwaiti newspaper *Ar-Ra'y Al-'amm* today says that Mr Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, visited Paris secretly during the past 2 days and conveyed a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to French President Francois Mitterrand pertaining to supplying Iraq with Super Etendard fighter planes fitted with Exocet missiles.

The newspaper quotes informed sources in Paris as saying that during his visit to the French capital, Mr Tariq 'Aziz stressed the necessity of delivering the fighter planes speedily because Iraq has confirmed reports that Iran is preparing to launch a new onslaught against the Iraqi forces and that Iraq wishes to obtain these planes before this attack is accomplished so that these planes can act as a deterrent for the Iraqi Armed Forces in order to confront such attack.

A responsible French official in Paris declined to comment on this report in the newspaper but said: If we wanted to talk about the visit of a foreign official to Paris, we would do so in an official statement. However, the French official did not explicitly deny the report.

Air Force Chief Denies Arrival of French Planes

LD151846 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] According to a report by *France-Soir*, but one which did not reveal its sources, the French Super Etendards already arrived in Iraq at the base of (Karara) north of Al-Mawsil, last Saturday just after nightfall.

However, Yves Loiseau, our special correspondent in Iraq, along with other French journalists, met this afternoon with the commander-in-chief of the Air Force, General Hasan, who categorically denied that the French aircraft have arrived in his country:

[Loiseau] No, the French Super Etendards have still not arrived in Iraq. That is the reply which has just been given to me by the commander-in-chief of the Iraqi Air Force, General Muhammad Hasan. This is, therefore, a new categorical and official denial. First of all, very timid about a subject which visibly bothers the Iraqis greatly, General Hasan all the same went on to reveal some additional confidential information. I quote him now: The delay can be explained by technical reasons because the Iraqi pilots now at Landivisiau are not yet ready to fly the Super Etendards, end quote.

Our pilots, General Hasan explained to me, are expected to return soon. It is the French who are in charge of their training, and it is they who are to decide if the level attained is sufficient or not.

To put it more clearly, this means that the training of the Iraqi pilots in France has not been completed. Here in Baghdad, no one thinks any longer that the delay is the result of diplomatic pressure. Aircraft without pilots would not be much use, they are saying here.

The mystery thus continues unabated, and with this official denial, we are back at square one in this whole affair: Where, in fact, are these French aircraft?

General Command Issues Communiques Nos 1,247-1,249

Communique No 1,247

JN142009 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1928 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,247 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 October 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In defense of strong, steadfast Iraq and in order to preserve its security and stability, our brave armed forces are continuing their heroic confrontation of the Iranian aggressors and their unjust aggression. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Using various weapons, our forward units attacked enemy positions and concentrations opposite our forces in the central sector of the front, scoring direct, effective hits. Our forces killed nine and wounded others. They also destroyed two infantry positions, the occupants of which were either killed or wounded. In the same sector, new groups of Iranian soldiers sought refuge with our forces. They were escaping Khomeyni's inferno and the oppression of his murderous henchmen. They were all safely evacuated to the rear.

2. One of our combat patrol units carried out an operation against enemy positions opposite our forward positions in the area east of Basra. Our units pounded them with various weapons, killing or wounding a number of enemy troops. In another area of the same sector, our forward units attacked enemy positions and concentrations with artillery, inflicting losses in men and equipment.

3. Sighting an assembly of enemy troops and vehicles opposite our forward units' positions in the northern sector of the front, our forces opened artillery fire; four enemy personnel were killed and others were wounded. Our forces also set on fire and destroyed one vehicle.

4. The spiteful Khomeyniite regime last night and today used artillery to shell Mandali, Sayyid Sadiq, and their environs, damaging and causing losses to a number of civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 October 1983

Communique No 1,248

JN151756 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,248 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 15 October 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Whenever the Iranian regime abandons the logic of reason and wisdom and continues its thoughtless intransigence and flagrant aggression against proud Iraq, it finds the brave soldiers of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah, gallant heroes defending their homeland and sanctities, quite ready to inflict the heaviest possible human and material losses on its forces. The results of the acitivites carried out in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A brave force belonging to our forward units raided enemy positions opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield. The force took the enemy troops by surprise, clashed with them, and managed after a short and successful battle to storm the enemy positions, killing 21 troops, whose bodies are still littering the battlefield. An enemy patrol tried to approach our forward units' positions elsewhere in the same sector. A force from our brave units clashed with it and managed to kill 10, capture 1, and seize some serviceable weapons used by the enemy patrol.

2. Formations of our bold Air Force aircraft today carried out intensive and daring raids against the enemy positions and troop concentrations in the northern sector of the battlefield. Other formations raided important military targets deep inside enemy territory. Our aircraft scored accurate and effective hits on the enemy positions, troop concentrations, and targets, inflicting further losses in men and equipment. Columns of smoke were seen billowing from the enemy positions and targets that were hit. All our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing 11 and destroying 1 infantry position.

4. Our forward units opened fire on an enemy concentration opposite our positions east of Basra, killing one and destroying one vehicle, one excavator, and two hardware stockpiles.

5. The artillery of the clique of evil and rancor in Iran today shelled Khurmal and its suburbs, damaging some civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 October 1983

Communique No 1,249

JN161815 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,249 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 16 October 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With splendid steadfastness and resolution based on rights and principles, our heroic forces continue to strike at the forces of the aggressive Iranian enemy, inflicting more losses. The results of the activities in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our capable fighter planes today attacked enemy troop concentrations in the northern and central operational sectors, scoring direct, effective hits. Other formations of our fighters raided enemy military targets inside enemy territory in the aforementioned sectors, scoring precise and effective hits. Explosions were heard and columns of smoke were seen rising from the raided targets. All our fighter planes returned safely to their base, God be praised.

2. Our brave frontline units engaged several enemy targets opposite their positions in Panjawin in the northern operational sector. Our units used different weapons in this engagement and succeeded in killing eight of the enemy, wounding several others, and destroying four vehicles, two excavators, and one mortar.

3. Our brave frontline units opened artillery fire on enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite their positions in the central operational sector. As a result of this strong and effective shelling, the enemy sustained losses in personnel and equipment. One of the enemy was killed; one infantry position and one observation post were destroyed in other parts of the same sector.

4. An arms depot was destroyed east of Basra.

5. The rancorous Khomeyniite clique opened artillery fire on Khurmal and its suburbs. The shelling caused damage to several civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 October 1983.

King Husayn Receives Lebanon's Junblatt 15 Oct
JN151205 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn received today at the Royal Hashemite Court Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party. During the meeting, they reviewed recent developments in Lebanon and efforts being exerted to achieve national reconciliation.

Husayn Briefs Cabinet on Regional Situation
JN161919 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn presided over a Cabinet session this evening to discuss the political and security situation in the region. At the beginning of the session, the Cabinet heard a comprehensive report by His Majesty King Husayn on Middle East developments in light of the course of events in the occupied Arab land, in the eastern gate of the Arab homeland, and in Lebanon on both the Lebanese and Palestinian levels.

During his assessment of the dimensions of these events taking place in the Arab arena, his majesty stressed the need to be vigilant and alert to the dangers of the current circumstances that threaten the overall Arab situation, especially the future of the Palestine question, the Gulf's Arabism, and Lebanon's unity and independence. His majesty also explained the effect of these events on Jordan in light of its position, a position that places heavy responsibilities on it. He added that Jordan is fully aware it must face up to these responsibilities in the service of the higher Arab interests and in fulfilling its pan-Arab message.

During the 2-hour session, His Majesty King Husayn expressed his hope that the brothers in Lebanon will be able to abide by the cease-fire agreement and then move to the stage of dialogue and national reconciliation. He also expressed confidence that the forthcoming Arab summit scheduled to be held in Riyadh will be able to restore Arab solidarity in form and substance in order to reach a situation in which the Arabs can confront the dangers with confidence and capability. He also stressed the need for the Arab states to support fraternal Iraq in its confrontation of the Iranian aggression, which threatens the Gulf's Arabism, stability, and the people's prosperity.

During discussion that followed his majesty's statement to the Cabinet, his majesty warned against attempts to undermine the Palestinian legitimacy which the PLO represents — attempts that constitute a danger to the national rights of the Palestinian people and the efforts being exerted to liberate Jerusalem to save our kinfolk from the occupation that threatens their existence and future on their Palestinian land.

Present at the meeting were Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

King Opens Conference on Bilad ash-Sham
JN161555 Amman Jordan Times in English 16 Oct 83 p 3

[By a *Jordan Times* staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Amman — A distinguished gathering of 40 Arab and foreign scholars and over 100 senior Jordanian officials filled the Samir Rifai Auditorium at the University of Jordan Saturday morning for the opening by His Majesty King Husayn of the Fourth International Conference on the History of Bilad ash-Sham.

His Majesty King Husayn opened the conference with a speech outlining the historical role played by this part of the Arab world and its contribution to Arab civilisation.

Following are excerpts from the King's speech: Bilad ash-Sham has always been the cradle of Arab civilisation and identity and constitutes the greatest potential force for confronting challenges and safeguarding Arab national entity and rights.

Bilad ash-Sham has been exposed to invaders' attacks before and after the emergence of Islam, and the invaders have left their mark on our soil. Byzantine domination of this region receded and finally was overwhelmed by the Arab presence. This is very significant and is worthy of deep examination and study because the subject of this conference is "the period stretching from the Byzantine period to the end of the Umayyad era."

That era, with all its events and results, bears proof of the long existence of Arabs in this part of the world. For over a thousand of years, until the present day, Arab existence in this region is closely linked with the prophecies and the prophets who are sent to this region; and the unity of the Arab people here was based on the very civilisation of man and on the values of justice and peace.

I congratulate this elite of scholars who seek to establish right and truth, and I admire their faithful scientific endeavours.

We are honoured to say that Jordan has had a singificant role to play in the history of Bilad ash-Sham, both by the endeavours of its people and due to its unique geographical location.

The role of our universities is therefore becoming more and more important, and this necessitates a continuous quest by scholars to attain more knowledge through cooperation and coordination with other universities and research centres. This has prompted us to begin close cooperation with the University of Damascus to help us obtain clearer pictures of the past history of Bilad ash-Sham.

Our invitation to all scholars is open because we want the cooperation of all historians and scholars interested in the past history of Bilad ash-Sham. We welcome these scholars to take part in our endeavours with the purpose of arriving at an objective and true picture of Arab history with the aim of re-writing this history based on pure facts and truth.

We also call on Arab universities to shoulder their scientific responsibilities and serve the aspirations of the Arab Nation which seeks to achieve more progress and far-reaching objectives.

The congress's idea presented itself when it became evident that some people tried to mispresent historical events and deal with them outside their natural context, Dr. Adnan al-Bakhit, professor of history at the University of Jordan, congress secretary and head of the documents and manuscripts department at the university, told the Jordanian News Agency, PETRA. The need for writing the history of Bilad ash-Sham, said Dr. Bakhit, became urgent after the creation of the alien Zionist state in the region.

The first congress on the history of Bilad ash-Sham convened in April, 1974 under the patronage of King Husayn, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan presided over the congress. The second congress was held in cooperation with the Damascus University late 1978, and the third at the University of Jordan in April 1980 in cooperation with Damascus University and Yarmuk University, Dr Bakhit added.

The 1980 congress research papers, which exceeded 100, concentrated on the history of Palestine throughout the ages, Dr. Bakhit pointed out.

This achievement will help provide satisfactory information and analysis of the studied era, and offer the Ministry of Education a reliable source of information that can be of invaluable profit at the educational level, Dr. Bakhit added.

Statement Issued on USSR Labor Delegation
JN171002 Amman Ad-Dustur in Arabic 17 Oct 83 p 26

[Text] The USSR labor delegation will leave Amman this evening after a 1-week visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Public Services Labor Union. During its stay, the delegation met with a number of officials in the Central Council and the General Federation of Trade Unions. The delegation visited a number of businesses, factories, companies, cities, tourist sites, and development projects.

A joint statement issued at the end of the visit stressed the need to increase cooperation between the USSR and the Jordanian labor movement for their mutual benefit and in the interest of world peace.

The two sides expressed full support for the Palestinian people's struggle and stressed the need to respect the freedom and independence of Palestinian decisionmaking.

They denounced the nuclear arms race and the U.S. Administration's support for Israel. They called for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The joint statement was signed by Yuriy Abramov, secretary of Local Industry and Municipal Services Workers Union, who headed the delegation, and Khalil Abu Khurmah, president of the General Union of Public Services in Jordan.

Egyptian Envoy To Brief King on Mubarak Talks
JN160930 Amman Sawt ash-Sha'b in Arabic 16 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] Cairo — *Sawt ash-Sha'b* — A personal envoy of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is expected to arrive in Amman soon carrying a message from the president to His Majesty King Husayn.

The message deals with the Egyptian president's talks with U.S. officials in Washington and the results of his tour with regard to the Middle East issue and the situation in the region.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, head of the president's office for political affairs, will not be the envoy this time because of his illness, which prevented him from participating in recent political meetings in Cairo during the visits of some African leaders and FRG Chancellor Kohl. Another envoy will carry the message.

AD-DUSTUR Urges Arab Stand To Defend Gulf Security
JN151310 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Intrinsic Power Is the Only Option," *Ad-Dustur says: Amid the increasing dangers to which the* Arab Gulf is being exposed as a result of the foreign naval concentrations and heightening of foreign interference in the Gulf's internal affairs, it is our duty as Arabs to face up to this challenge which may sink the entire region in an international conflict and great dangers. The only way to face this challenge is to establish a pan-Arab stand which will be the basis of defending the Arab nation's security, whether it is against Israel or against the dangers of internationalizing the conflict in the Gulf, which will soon become a center for Arab concern and a source of great Arab worries if Arab fragmentation remains as it is now.

It is obvious that our brothers in the Arab Gulf have realized the impact of foreign threats to interfere militarily in the Gulf. Saudi and Kuwaiti officials, for example, have declared that they will intervene if the Strait of Hormuz is closed and their interests are endagered. It seems as if they are saying no to the foreign interference and to the foreign fleets concentrated near Arab territory.

Ad-Dustur adds: The awareness of our brothers in the Gulf of the dangers of foreign interference and its fierce consequences for the entire region is what must push us, as Arabs, to re-establish a pan-Arab stand which will back the Gulf's Arabism and serve as a barrier to the dangers of the fleets' interference in its waters as well the dangers facing the Arab Gulf. It would be unrealistic for this nation and its abundant potentials to remain an observer of what is taking place on Arab territory, whether in Palestine, Lebanon, or the Arab Gulf, without bypassing the stance of oral condemnation, which is denounced by this nation's masses whose simplest right has been taken away: the right to defend themselves and their territory against the enemies of their Arabism and nationalism.

Ad-Dustur adds: We realize that, without an active pan-Arab stand which can strongly defend the Gulf, the doors will remain open not only to U.S. interference, but also to Israeli interference which some circles have begun to suggest on the pretext that it will become the final exit from Israel's financial and economic crisis. If the call for establishing such a pan-Arab stand was correct when it was presented amid the exacerbating Israeli dangers, it is today also correct on the same level amid the dangers of U.S. interference in the Arab Gulf as long as all invaders' objectives are aimed against Arab territory, its people, and its resources.

AFP: U.S. Marine Killed in Beirut 16 October

OW162343 Hong Kong AFP in English 2312 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Beirut, Oct 16 (AFP) — A U.S. Marine was killed and five others wounded today as armed militia in the southern suburbs of Beirut fired on positions of the multinational peacekeeping force's U.S. contingent, spokesmen for the force said. The gunfire, targeted at U.S. positions in the northeast of the airport there, continued intermittently for seven hours. The Marines responded strongly each time they were fired at.

It was the third day in a row that U.S. positions had been attacked, and the targeting of the Marines was deliberate, sources in the Mulinational Force said. Because of the intensity of the fighting, the Americans asked British soldiers near their sector to help evacuate the wounded.

They sent armoured vehicles which took two of the Marines to the Defense Ministry, in a southeast suburb of Beirut, from where they were helicoptered to U.S. facilities outside the capital.

One of the men who was badly wounded in the neck died shortly afterwards.

Shortly after that, four more Marines were wounded, two by an anti-tank rocket.

During the day Lebanese soldiers exchanged heavy fire with Shia' Muslim militiamen in Beirut's southern suburbs near where the Marines had been wounded. Before that, there were sporadic clashes also involving Marine positions near the mainly Shi'ite suburb of Hayy as-Sallum.

The Multinational Force refused to identify the armed elements that fired on the Marines from thickly-populated Hayy as-Sellum Although the Shi'ite faction Amal has claimed to be the only force there, U.S. officers said Saturday that Marxist gunmen from the George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) fired at their positions that day. Their helmets plus insignia on their shoulders identified them as PFLP men, the U.S. officers said.

Meanwhile Lebanese Army soldiers and Amal militia clashed violently in other parts of the southern suburbs, particularly in (Chyah). Shells fell in Al-Hazimiyah outside the combat zone, but no casualties were reported.

Two hours later the fighting lessened after contacts were made by a four-party military committee monitoring the ceasefire in effect since September 25.

Ihdin Reports Marine Death

NC170809 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] There has been an exchange of artillery and machinegun fire in the Suq al-Gharb-Kayfun-'Aytat-Qabr Shmun axis this morning following a night during which some sporadic artillery shelling was heard.

On the Ash-Shuwayfat-Kafr Shima-College of Sciences-airport vicinity axis sporadic clashes were reported this morning following a calm night on this axis in the wake of the killing of a [U.S.]Marine and the wounding of three others by sniper fire.

In the southern suburb of Beirut there is now heavy sniper fire on the Sannin-at-Tiru-Mar Mikhayil axis.

Last night there were clashes with medium caliber weapons and rockets. These clashes intensified around 0300 today, and flares were seen illuminating the southern suburbs.

A security report has spoken about some casualties in the same suburbs as ambulances were seen roaming in its areas.

In Iqlim al-Kharrub, a security report indicated this morning that sporadic bursts of gunfire were recorded around 0700 today between Al-Jiyah and Barja, and B'asir and Harat B'asir.

Last night there were fierce clashes particularly in the Wadi az-Zaynah-Siblin-al-Jiyah-Harat B'asir-B'asir-Barja axis. The Phalangist gangs, that are agents for Israel, are continuing their siege of these areas through the armed roadblocks that have been established on the roads leading to the Iqlim al-Kharrub areas.

8 Points on National Dialogue Committee Agenda

NC170747 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Contacts will continue today to solve the problem of the venue of the National Dialogue Committee. According to official reports the venue will be announced not later than tomorrow, Tuesday.

According to the agenda drawn up by the Preparatory Committee last Thursday, the following eight subjects will be discussed by the committee:

1. A comprehensive and lasting national accord.

2. Lebanon's identity and its Arab and international relations.

3. The question of ending the Israeli occupation.

4. Ensuring the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces, except the forces present with the approval of the Lebanese Government.

5. Political, economic, administrative, educational, financial, and informational reform.

6. Ensuring social justice, equality, and equal opportunities among all the Lebanese and achieving a just and balanced integration of development for various Lebanese areas.

7. The discussion of the military establishment's situation.

8. Measures ensuring the restoration of the state's sovereignty on all Lebanese territory.

AL-Hariri Continues Mediation Efforts 17 Oct

Meets Franjiyah in Zgharta

NC170931 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] At the political level, contacts are continuing today to set the venue of the National Dialogue Committee on Thursday. Within this framework, Rafiq al-Hariri, the participant in the Saudi mediation, arrived today in Zgharta aboard an Army helicopter where he immediately met with former President Sulayman Franjiyah. The meeting was attended by Franjiyah's son Robert and Deputy 'Abdallah ar-Rasi.

'Optimistic' After Karami Meeting

NC171034 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Rafiq al-Hariri, the participant in the Saudi mediation, arrived at the residence of former Prime Minister Rashid Karami at 1140 and immediately held a meeting with him. Al-Hariri had met with former President Sulayman Franjiyah and his son Robert. After the meeting, Al-Hariri said: We are optimistic over the convening of the National Dialogue Conference.

Leaders To Attend Dialogue

NC171213 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1150 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Rafiq al-Hariri left the residence of former Prime Minister Rashid Karami in Tripoli a short while ago. He told reporters that former President Franjiyah and former Prime Minister Karami have agreed to attend the Dialogue Committee session. Al-Hariri also said that he is immediately proceeding to Beirut to meet with President al-Jumayyil and then to Damascus to continue his contacts there.

Security Arrangements Committee Activities 15-17 Oct

Recommends Observers' Deployment

NC151609 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1526 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Unidentified radio correspondent's dispatch; place not given — live or recorded]

[Text] In its 13th meeting today, the Security Arrangements Committee achieved positive results with regard to the summoning of international observers as a first important step toward the consolidation of the cease-fire. The committee meeting ended about 1 hour ago, and the following decision concerning the summoning of international observers was issued:

The members of the Security Arrangements Committee — Colonel Jean Nasif from the Lebanese Army, Dr Jean Ghanim from the Lebanese Front, Wahbi Abu Fa'ur from the National Salvation Front, and Dr Ayyub Humayyid from the Amal Movement — pursuant to the statement issued on 25 September 1983 on a cease-fire under the supervision of neutral observers in the areas of clashes, agreed to address official requests to Greece and Italy to carry out this task by deploying in the areas of clashes, and in a manner covering all these areas.

The text of the resolution was followed by the signature of the four parties. It was learned that each member received a copy of this resolution to submit written proposals to the committee in its meeting on Monday.

It was agreed to address an appeal through the information media to all the Lebanese to stop any cease-fire violations or any actions that could cause prejudice among the Lebanese.

On the problem of the manufacturers in the Ash-Shuwayfat and Kafr Shima area, director general for industry, Alfred Dibs, accompanied by the chairman of the Ash-Shuwayfat Manufacturers Association, Ahmad Btaytiyah, arrived at the meeting place and discussed the ways to ensure the renewed operation of factories and the return of workers to work. The National Salvation Front representative expressed his desire to find a quick solution to the Dayr al-Qamar problem.

It was learned that agreement was reached to ask the Italian contingent to assist the British contingent in protecting the committee headquarters in the Trad Bank. It was learned that the next meeting on Monday will deal with two main subjects — the Dayr al-Qamar problem and the final arrangements regarding the summoning of the observers, the manner of their work, the manner of liaison between the Security Arrangements Committee and the observer force, and the organization of a 24-hour work schedule in the committee headquarters. These were the most significant results of today's meeting of the Security Arrangements Committee.

Requests Greek, Italian Observers

NC152017 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Lebanon this evening officially asked the Greek and Italian Governments to send 400 observers each to supervise the consolidation of the cease-fire in the Lebanese areas in implementation of the agreement reached about 3 weeks ago. This came after a meeting held at the Presidential Palace under President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, attended by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, acting Foreign Ministry secretary general. Ambassador Makkawi conveyed to the Italian and Greek ambassadors the Lebanese official request for the dispatch of 800 observers to Lebanon.

Makkawi Meets Ambassadors

NC161321 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] A 2-hour meeting was held at the Defense Ministry this morning. It included Ambassador Dr Khalil Makkawi, acting Foreign Ministry secretary general, the Greek and Italian ambassadors, the commander of the Italian contingent in the Multinational Force, and a number of senior Army officers.

After the meeting Ambassador Makkawi made the following statement to the Voice of Lebanon: We acquainted them with the field and logistic parts of the plan that was discussed during the Security Arrangements Committee meeting as well as the permanent and mobile sites in which the neutral Italian and Greek observers will be positioned. The Security Arrangements Committee is scheduled to discuss the details of the plan tomorrow. He added: The two ambassadors promised to convey the plan to their governments. They also promised to give us a final reply on the date of arrival of these forces as soon as possible.

Ambassador Makkawi was asked about the boundaries of the area of deployment for the observers. He replied: The cease-fire agreement comprises all the Lebanese territories, but one of our priorities is that the observers be deployed in all the combat areas. The observers can also roam and deploy according to the necessities of security from Al-Batrun up to Al-Awwali. We asked the two ambassadors that their countries dispatch 400 men each, and we answered their questions on logistic and military matters.

Italy Sets Conditions

NC170727 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Italian Prime Minister Craxi has announced from Athens, where he is attending the Socialist parties summit, that the Italian Government agrees to Lebanon's request for observers.

In Rome, Italian Defense Minister Spadolini yesterday announced three conditions for sending Italian observers to Lebanon. AFP quotes the Italian minister as saying that these conditions are: The Italian Parliament's approval of sending observers; the agreement of all the parties concerned on a specific link with the United Nations; and the drawing up of a memorandum ensuring the maximum security for the Italian observers. AFP says that the Socialist summit meeting in Athens will today discuss the situation in Lebanon in light of the official request made by Lebanon to Italy and Greece to send observers to Beirut to supervise the cease-fire.

Committee Meets on Deployment

NC171026 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee today met in the presence of all its members: Staff Colonel Jean Nasif for the Lebanese Army; Dr Jean Ghanim for the Lebanese Front; Wahbi Abu Fa'ur for the National Salvation Front; and Dr Ayyub Humayyid for the Amal Movement. The committee will study a plan for widening the deployment of international observers.

Wadi' Haddad on 14 Oct Meeting With Reagan

NC141906 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] This morning U.S. President Reagan received presidential adviser for National Affairs Dr Wadi' Haddad, who was accompanied by the Lebanese ambassador to the United States Dr 'Abdallah Abu Habib.

Following the meeting, Dr Haddad said: I delivered to President Reagan a message from President al-Jumayyil which expresses President al-Jumayyil's gratitude and that of the Lebanese people for the assistance which the president, his administration, and the U.S. people are giving to the Lebanese cause.

The U.S. support was essential at a time when Lebanon's existence as a democratic entity was threatened by foreign forces which do not want to see Lebanon rise following several years of fighting, destruction, and human tragedies.

Dr Haddad added: Lebanon also appreciates the diligent efforts which the United States had made through ambassadors Robert McFarlane and Richard Fairbanks to achieve a cease-fire with the assistance of the Saudis and to start a national dialogue among the Lebanese.

Dr Haddad said: President al-Jumayyil repeatedly called for this dialogue months before the recent round of fighting, but these calls were rejected by the opposition at that time. However, national dialogue is now being implemented, and I am happy to announce to you that the first preparatory meeting was held yesterday and was positive.

Dr Haddad said: Practical results, naturally, are not easy, but all parties now realize that only through dialogue can a united, strong, and new Lebanon emerge. The majority of the Lebanese people want to live in amity and peace but there is concern that those who are living under occupation will not be able to participate in the dialogue freely, without the intervention of the occupation forces. We look to our friends, especially the United States, for help in neutralizing these pressures and allowing the Lebanese people to determine their future.

Asked how the Lebanese people can determine their future under these pressures, Haddad said: We discussed this matter with the senior assistants to President Reagan, and they are studying ways in which this can be accomplished.

Asked whether Lebanon asked for a bigger role for the Multinational Force, especially the Marines, Haddad answered in the negative. He was then asked how could the preparatory meeting be described as successful when only one representative from the opposition attended. He answered that from the beginning the [National] Salvation Front decided to send one representative, and that person attended. It is hoped that the dialogue meeting will be held next week.

Asked whether he is still afraid that Walid Junblatt wants to partition Lebanon, Haddad said: There is fear of partition but all parties must realize that a united Lebanon comprising all the Lebanese communities is more viable and that the Lebanese people themselves want Lebanon united.

Haddad described the death of a Marine soldier in Lebanon today as part of the price which the United States has chosen to pay in defending democracy and in supporting the friendly country Lebanon.

PSP Statement Supports Lebanese Communists
JN141436 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] In a statement issued today, the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] expressed its solidarity with the Lebanese Communist Party and warned of the dangers criminal hands are posing against the homeland in general and the city of Tripoli in particular.

The statement expressed the PSP's regret over the Tripoli clashes that are taking place while the homeland is experiencing an extremely serious phase and a historical turning point, something which calls for complete national solidarity. The statement said that the premeditated killing of the communist comrades will not be allowed to go unanswered.

London Weekly on Junblatt's European Tour
PM141451 London Al-Majallah in Arabic 15-21 Oct 83 p 8

[From "*Al-Majallah* Correspondent Dispatches"]

[Text] [Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party leader] Walid Junblatt's most important achievement during his visit to Athens last week was that the Greek Government agreed to send Greek Army observers to the Ash-Shuf area to supervise the cease-fire. It is now expected that Greece, India, Yugoslavia, and, probably, Italy will join the observer force.

While in Greece, Italy, and Romania, Junblatt tried to obtain European support for his position in the Lebanese conflict. He warned that "The fighting will be resumed if no new political formula is arrived at," but he confirmed that he will participate in the National Dialogue Conference and that he is interested in real understanding with the Lebanese regime.

Junblatt vehemently criticized the attitude of the French Socialist Party, describing it as "more Phalangist than socialist."

AL-Majallah has learned from sources close to Junblatt that the French Government has asked him to postpone his scheduled visit to Paris and that this request was made as a result of the pressure exerted on the Foreign Ministry by Socialist Party First Secretary Lionel Jospin. Junblatt was due to meet with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson and [National Bloc leader] Raymond Iddih in Paris.

It seems that Junblatt embarked on his European tour not at the invitation of the European governments but on his own initiative. Greek diplomatic sources have told *Al-Majallah* that Junblatt invited himself to Greece and was not invited. However, Junblatt did manage to meet in Athens with Prime Minister Andre Papandreou and a number of Greek Foreign Ministry officials.

In Bucharest Junblatt was received by Romanian President Ceausescu, who reaffirmed his position calling for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and for a conference on national dialogue to settle the internal problems.

Druze Leader Hamadah on Current Situation
NC141420 Beirut Monday Morning in English 10-16 Oct 83 pp 24-29

["Text" of interview with former Minister Marwan Hamadah, senior aide of Druze leader Walid Junblatt, from New York by correspondent Muna as-Sa'id in English — date not given]

[Text] Question: Many have expressed fears over Mr. Junblatt's decision to set up a local civil administration in the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh, interpreting the move as a step towards the partition of Lebanon into sectarian cantons or separate sectarian states. What was behind Mr. Junblatt's decision?

Answer: I believe that accusing Mr. Junblatt of trying to create a canton or a separate Druze state is an enormous joke. It is a joke that has been spread around by those who want to outmaneuver Junblatt politically and to try to rally Arab and international support around them and against him.

Now that four or five days have passed since the decision and its implementation, I think things are clearer to everybody. There is no Druze state; there is no Druze canton; all there is in Junblatt's decision is the organization of civil service in the bazaar of the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh in order to allow citizens to carry on various services — to repair roads, public buildings, electricity and water — and to generally organize municipal life. There is nothing more in Mr. Junblatt's decision, and there is certainly no political content in the move.

Question: Why was the move made at this particular time?

Answer: It was directly related to the cease-fire. As soon as the cease-fire was implemented, it became imperative to look after the citizens who were living in dreadful conditions in the mountains. As you know, the population of the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh had lived under Phalangist siege for over a year, and then they lived for more than a month in a war type situation with very heavy shelling that caused considerable damage to buildings and villages. It was therefore necessary to organize the removal of the rubble, the restoration of the electric current and the water supply, and the return of some order and services to life in the mountains.

Only the cease-fire and the need to look after the civilians determined the timing.

Question: And yet, many see this move not as an organizational step but as the beginning of a Druze state...

Answer: As you know, we have heard this story of a Druze state many times this year. If the Druze had any wish to establish a state, they would probably have seized many opportunities to do so, but they have no such intention. And you know that this is a decision taken formally and definitely by the leaders of the Druze, be they Junblattis, Arslanis or religious sheikhs. There are no plans for a Druze state, and there is not a single working paper that is related to the establishment of a Druze state. All the thinking we do and all the settlements we propose go into the framework of a united Lebanon.

Question: How long do you think this local administration will last?

Answer: As long as the settlement for the establishment of a balanced rule in the capital, Beirut, takes. What we aim at is the restoration of government order and services all over Lebanese territory, but this must be preceded this time by the restoration of law, justice, and equality within the Lebanese government.

Question: And how long do you think that will take?

Answer: As long as the accord talks continue.

Question: If the talks start very soon, do you think there is any chance that this local administration will be stopped?

Answer: This move is in no way contrary to the (central) administration shouldering its responsibilities in the Ash-Shuf. Nobody has expelled the Kaimmakam, and nobody has refused to have government assistance given in all fields. But if you're talking about restoring government law in the sense of sending gendarmes or army troops — all this must await the result of the national dialogue.

to turn into peace?

Answer: I have very good reasons to believe that the cease-fire
Question: Why?

Answer: First, because I don't think the National Salvation Front wants a war situation in the mountains or elsewhere. I think it believes that the time is ripe for the political talks to start, and this is why we very promptly approved the Saudi-Syrian document that was proposed to all parties and that was agreed upon by the Lebanese authorities. And second, because I think that the other side — the Phalangist Party or others who may still have some offensive plans or ideas — know very well this time that the multinational force will not break the cease-fire for their sake. Nobody is going to bring the Lebanese civil war to the international crisis point again. And we all know that without the multinational force — without all the guns and the fleets that are massed in Lebanese waters — any military expedition by the Phalangist forces or others would be adventurous. So if one side does not want to break the cease-fire and the other cannot, we have good reason to believe that it will hold.

Question: Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni stated in an interview with this magazine last week that the U.S.-Syrian dialogue may have drifted in a direction which is not compatible with Lebanese interests, that this dialogue may have taken an anti-Lebanese turn. Do you agree?

Answer: No, I don't share that view. I don't think an American-Syrian dialogue must automatically turn against Lebanese interests. If I recall well, even the Lebanese president, Amin al-Jumayyil, in his visits to the U.S. called upon Washington to open talks and contacts with Syria in order to remove many of the problems that had arisen. I think it was a Lebanese objective to obtain American-Syrian detente, so I cannot see why this should now appear to be contrary to the interests of Lebanon. On the other hand, if we go back to the precedent of 1958, it is obvious that even with the landing of the Marines, any American-Syrian dialogue — if it goes in parallel with a serious Lebanese national reconciliation process — should produce an era of stability. We have the example of 1958, the example of Ambassador Murphy's mission at the time and how within two weeks of the Marines' landing, we had peace restored, a national unity government formed and the Marines on the way out.

Question: But some believe that there is a change under way in American policy, in the sense that Washington seems to be accepting more Syrian influence in Lebanon. Do you agree with that view?

Answer: No. Lebanese officials have for months been trying to say that they would look after Syrian interests, safeguard the legitimate security interests of Syria in Lebanon, and so on. Now, if the Americans try to cope with these questions, I don't see how the effort becomes against Lebanon.

What I think is that an erroneous policy has been practiced by Lebanon in regard to Syria, and this policy has led to a very serious aggravation of tension between two sister countries, which should have very friendly and brotherly relations. Now that the Americans have understood the importance of serene Lebanese-Syrian relations, I think the Lebanese should not start kicking.

Question: In the light of your talks with U.S. officials, how do you view American policy in Lebanon now?

Answer: I think that the U.S. Administration, after using the heaviest possible deterrent military action against us, has realized that besides keeping PSP forces out of Suq al-Gharb, all the Marines and all the fleets in the world would never get a settlement in Lebanon. They have realized that there is a real internal problem here and that this internal problem should be looked into seriously so that we don't have a civil war every ten years; that there are rights that are being ignored and institutions that need to be developed in a proper and just way; that there are a lot of reforms and demands to be me., and that this would be in the interest of Lebanon, its stability and its democratic system. Nobody has really challenged the president's rule, but nobody will accept unruly or one-party rule over all the communities of Lebanon.

Question: What is the purpose of your visit to the United States?

Answer: The main purpose of my visit is not to see American officials. Of course, I have plans to visit Washington and I will take this opportunity to meet American officials and explain our stand to them. But what brought me here was the presence of (Saudi Foreign Minister) Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim, and Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, the main Saudi mediator in the Lebanese crisis. Their presence here, as well as the presence of the secretary general of the Arab League, gives us an opportunity to have consultations in order to go ahead with the agreements which was signed 10 days ago. We should not sit back and wait; we have to develop the ways and means to get to entente. There are some difficulties to be settled, like the

location of the National Congress, the question of the preparatory committee (in order to have working papers ready for the leaders when they meet), and the question of observers to ensure the perpetuation of the cease-fire.

Question: How would you describe the outcome of your talks so far with Khaddam, Faysal, and Klibi on the question of the cease-fire observers?

Answer: We have made a lot of progress on this matter and I think you will hear of it within a few days. I cannot anticipate or reveal anything at this stage.

Question: What about the time and place of the meeting?

Answer: The time is after the preparatory committee has prepared the detailed agenda for the meeting. We have agreed to have the representatives of the national leaders meet somewhere, probably in Lebanon, to prepare for the meeting. It is our view that the meeting (of the National Dialogue Committee) should not turn out to be a photography session or a cocktail party. there are very drastic and profound differences, and we want the meeting to be a success, not an arena for further political or verbal fighting. This is why preparation is necessary.

Question: And when do you think the preparatoy committee will meet?

Answer: As soon as the Lebanese authorities call upon it to meet. I think the authorities are just waiting to know what the final date for the higher meeting is.

Question: And nothing has been decided on that so far?

Answer: There is the problem of the location, which, as you may guess, involves very serious security problems. We are looking into it very carefully.

Question: What will the Arab role in the national dialogue be?

Answer: As you know, there will be representatives of Saudi Arabia and Syria at the national entente meeting. Their role is seen by everyone as that of a catalyst; they will not only be witnesses — they will be catalysts and probably warrantors of any settlement reached.

Question: What are the chances that a meeting will be held in Jidda in the next few days?

Answer: I cannot evaluate the chances. The next few days should be dedicated to the preparation of the meeting, so we cannot expect the meeting to take place in a few days. If the preparatory meeting starts in a few days, we can reasonably expect the bigger congress to meet within two or three weeks.

It all depends on the speed of the preparatory meeting. Everybody wants it to be quick. It is a must that it be convened.

Question: Do you expect all the Lebanese parties to take part in the dialogue?

Answer: As far as I know, all the parties invited will attend, and I am sure everyone is keen to have a national dialogue. Nobody wants to keep on fighting.

Question: What is the position of Mr Junblatt?

Answer: Mr Junblatt has been calling for a national dialogue for almost 16 months — since before the war broke out in Mount Lebanon. He has been calling for this dialogue ever since President al-Jumayyil took office. Every time we requested this dialogue we were told that the time was not ripe for it and that every effort should be dedicated to the ouster of foreign forces.

We think that if we had had a national dialogue, a national consensus, a national unity government, and unified pressure on the big powers and on the various neighbors, we would have obtained the withdrawal of all foreign forces long ago — starting, of course, with the withdrawal of the Israeli forces. But what was done was the exact opposite. What happened was that everything collapsed and no withdrawals were realized. I think this is a very bad balance sheet. The position of Mr Junblatt remains that a national dialogue should start in order to develop a new progressive, democratic formula for Lebanon. The 1943 pact is now out of date — it does not have the proper answers to Lebanon's modern problems. I think that as citizens of one country, we should get together and develop our system. I do not know of one country in the world that has not had an evolution in its constitutional system. The French have had what they call five republics in one century. It is high time for Lebanon to draft the basis of its second republic.

Question: Do you expect a coalition government to be formed as a result of the National Congress?

Answer: The aim is not the formation of a government. The aim is to agree on new basic principles that would constitute a solid platform for the new government. Forming a new government without prior agreement on the various issues would be like throwing people into a vacuum. So I believe that the process should start with a preparatory meeting, followed by a national unity congress on the higher level, followed by the proclamation of a new document or working paper of entente and the appointment of a government to implement this working paper.

Question: Would you agree to be a member of that government if you were asked? Would Mr Junblatt?

Answer: I cannot answer for Mr Junblatt, but I believe there is a lot of work to be done before anyone can talk about governments. What we need this time is a real program that reflects national consensus, and on the basis of such a program, I don't think anyone who is called upon (to join the government) would shirk his responsibilities.

Question: What position, what demands will you be taking to the dialogue?

Answer: What are our demands? I think the National Salvation Front and its ally, the Amal Movement, have proclaimed their demands several times. We want the necessary reform to be introduced in the political and administrative system in Leba-

non in order to reestablish justice, equality, and a real balance of power — a real participation in the government of all the components of the country.

And we believe that this implies more equal representation in Parliament, different rules for the appointment of the prime minister, a more democratic approach by the president, a better distribution of posts and offices among all communities and within each community. We believe many communities have been stripped of their rights over the last few months and years. On the other hand, we want the withdrawal of foreign forces, without conditions that are contrary to Lebanese sovereignty. This is why we believe that the agreement of May 17 went too far, giving Israel undeserved influence over the south and provoking a chain reaction that has perpetuated the presence of foreign forces on our soil instead of facilitating their evacuation.

Question: Do you believe the obstacle of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement can be overcome in the talks?

Answer: I believe that if everybody has a realistic approach and is ready to see where disagreements have led us, we can overcome this difficulty, yes.

Question: If the Lebanese-Israeli agreement is abrogated as you are demanding, do you think Israel will ever leave the south?

Answer: I think Israel should leave the south in accordance with U.N. Security Council resolutions. But what Lebanon can do is in the broader interpretation of the armistice agreement, give a platform for attack on anyone. This, if there is a credible government in Beirut, should be sufficient for everybody.

Question: How would you describe the Lebanese Druze community's relations with Israel, in the light of the talks Druze leaders have apparently held in Israel?

Answer: Let me say immediately that no Druze leader has had talks in Israel. What happened is this: There is a Druze population in Palestine that, in view of the tragedy in Mount Lebanon, reacted as a lobbying power to try to limit the support of the Israeli authorities to the Lebanese Forces. There was never any contact between any significant Lebanese Druze leaders and Israeli officials. The only relations that exist between the Druze and Israel are between the Lebanese Druze and the Palestinian Druze.

Question: But meetings were reported.

Answer: That is all nonsense.

Question: Mr. Junblatt has just stated that he is ready to accept Israeli security demands that would guarantee Israel's northern borders but that Syria has interests in Lebanon that go beyond Israeli interests. What security demands is he talking about? What is he ready to accept?

Mr Junblatt was very explicit. He said that the National Salvation Front would ask for the annulment of the May 17 treaty with Israel. This, as you know, is a precondition to the negotiations which was put down by all members of the National Salvation Front. On the other hand, everybody knows that, the objective being the withdrawal of Israel's military forces, some kind of development of the armistice agreement should be discussed. I think what Mr Junblatt meant was that a strengthened UNFIL in south Lebanon could give guarantees — mainly to the Israelis so they can get out, but also to the Lebanese not to have the Israelis back again.

Question: How hopeful are you that the dialogue will lead to an agreement which will end the Lebanese crisis?

Answer: At this stage, and despite the minor difficulties that stand in the way of the dialogue, I am confident that the Lebanese are eager to have this dialogue succeed. As far as we are concerned, you can be sure that President Franjiyah,Premier Karami, Mr Walid Junblatt, and Mr Nabih Birri are very eager to get to that settlement. We are not warmongers, and we believe it is high time democracy was reestablished in Lebanon — a democracy by whose rules everybody must abide, starting with us and also including the others.

Question: If the current political efforts fail, do you see partition taking place, with various mini-states — Druze, Maronite, and so on — replacing the state of Lebanon?

Answer: No, I don't think such states, if they were ever created, would survive. And as far as we are concerned, we will never create a sectarian Druze state or work for the partition of the country.

Birri Urges Annulling 17 May Agreement

NC161245 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said the National Dialogue Conference aims at achieving justice in Lebanon. In an interview to be published by *Monday Morning* magazine tomorrow, Birri said the unification of the Lebanese people will ensure the liberation of all lebanon within 3 months. He called for annulling the agreement with Israel and for dissolving the armed militia as soon as national reconciliation is achieved. He emphasized that the Amal Movement seeks to eliminate political sectarianism, but that if this proves difficult, the alternative is to establish justice among communities.

Birri denied that there is a dispute between the Amal Movement and the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council. He said some people might propose that the president should continue to be a Maronite, but what prevents him from being elected by direct public ballot? Birri emphasized that the 1943 formula is finished; it has destroyed Lebanon three times and none of the negotiators should try to impose his formula on the others. He expressed fear of the repetition in the south of what had happened in the Ash-Shuf if the militia barracks and guns are not dismantled and their forces withdrawn. He said if the parties have good intentions, it is possible to achieve a solution.

Israeli Forces Fire at Crowd in An-Nabatiyah

NC161025 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] We have just received the following: The Israeli forces opened automatic fire on a crowd celebrating the 'Ashura' anniversary in An-Nabatiyah. An atmosphere of anxiety prevails in the town. Initial information says that there are a number of casualties. Security reports indicate that clashes between Barja and al-Jiyah have been raging since 0930 with all types of weapons.

RFL Reports 15 Casualties

NC161228 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] There has been a clash in the south this morning between the Israeli forces and a crowd celebrating the 'Ashura' anniversary in the Husayniyah shrine in An-Nabatiyah. Fire was opened and four Israeli military vehicles were set on fire.

Initial reports indicated that 15 persons were killed or wounded.

Eyewitnesses have said that hand-to-hand fighting took place between the celebrants and the Israeli forces, that stones and knives were used in the clashes and that an Israeli helicopter overflew the Husayniyah shrine during the clash. Meanwhile the situation in the area is still tense and ambulances as well as heavy Israeli patrols are being seen roaming in the streets.

More on An-Nabatiyah Clashes

NC161458 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Excerpts] At a celebration held at the Al-'Amiliyah College in Beirut this morning on the occasion of the 'Ashura' anniversary, His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council, called for a comprehensive civilian resistance against Israel.

In the meantime, the Israeli occupation authorities in An-Nabatiyah committed a horrible crime against those celebrating the anniversary, killing or wounding ten citizens. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the south reported that the more than 100,000 citizens who were celebrating the occasion in the courtyard of the An-Nabatiyah shrine in An-Nabatiyah resisted an Israeli patrol that tried to infiltrate the courtyard. They set fire to the Israeli patrol's vehicles. Following this, the Israeli authorities declared a curfew in An-Nabatiyah and carried out wide-scale arrests. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent described the confrontation between the Israeli forces and inhabitants as follows:

[Begin recording] About 150,000 citizens came to An-Nabatiyah from various districts in the south this morning to celebrate the anniversary of 'Ashura' — the anniversary of heroism and martyrdom. At 1100, half an hour after the start of the celebration, two explosions were heard which, it appeared, were directed against an Israeli motorized patrol passing near the Az-Zahra' School. Immediately afterwards, the Israeli forces fired shots above the heads of the celebrants, wounding 7 persons.

Despite the heavy shooting, the citizens resisted the Israeli soldiers when they tried to penetrate the Al-Husayniyah procession. The citizens stoned the soldiers and used swords to fight them. Two IDF vehicles were burned down and about five soldiers were killed and wounded. The Israelis lost their control.

The Israeli military forces inside the city were immediately reinforced. They tried to forcibly disperse the gathering. In the meantime, about 7,000 citizens left the Al-Husayniyah club beating their heads with swords and chanting: God is great. They marched toward the Israeli soldiers undaunted by the heavy shooting. The confrontation became violent. Some citizens burned down three IDF trucks. Faced with this situaiton, the Israeli soldiers sealed all entrances and exits to the city with vehicles. Many of them took position on rooftops, and they declared a curfew inside the city. They began a wide-scale combing operation that dispersed the celebrants. According to the latest reports from An-Nabatiyah, the situation remains tense and cautious. [end recording]

Israelis Fire at Religious Procession in Tyre

NC161521 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] A security source said the Israeli forces today fired in the air in the Al-Mina' area in Tyre this morning to intimidate a large popular procession that was staged on the occasion of the 'Ashhura' anniversary. The source added that the Israeli forces withdrew from the place following quick contacts that resulted in avoiding a confrotation.

Japanese Red Army Elements Reportedly in Al-Biqa'

NC142105 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] In Barr Ilyas, in the Al-Biqa', armed elements believed to be from the Japanese Red Army have appeared in the wake of the Palestinian withdrawal from the area. This is at a time when the Syrians have established new fortifications between Niha and Qa' Ar-Rim and brought in additional artillery and rocket launchers.

Gen Talas Addresses Air Force Graduates 16 Oct

JN162020 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Aleppo — On a glorious day for our Armed Forces, and under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, our Armed Forces celebrated the Air Force and Air Defense Day. On this occasion, the Air Force College held a celebration during which a new group of pilots, technicians, and air navigators was graduated.

President Hafiz al-Asad deputized General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces and defense minister, to attend this meeting. The meeting was also attended by several comrade members of the Regional Command, ranking party and government officials, and the family of martyr Wing Commander Husayn Dhiab as-Sanad, after whom the course was named.

Gen Mustafa Talas delivered a speech in which he conveyed greetings from struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, leader of our triumphant march, to the comrades in arms and party comrades who will support the steadfastness of the Arab nation in confronting all imperialist and Zionist challenges that threaten our existence and hamper our people's march toward victory and liberation.

Talas addressed the graduates by saying: The graduation from this course on the anniversary of the October war, which was one of the fruits of the corrective movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad, is a great incentive for you to honor and fulfill the memory of this war during which the Arab individual was reborn and during which the decisive turning point in the Arabs' modern history was made.

Talas also spoke about the support and backing which our Arab cause receives from all friends in the world, foremost of which are the friendly USSR and the socialist bloc countries, who are standing firmly in support of our Arab nation's struggle to liberate all its occupied land and regaing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Talas concluded his speech by announcing the leadership's approval of naming this course after the martyr Wing Commander Husayn Dhiab as-Sanad in appreciation for the greatness of martyrdom and martyrs and immortalizing their pure souls which they sacrificed on the altar of freedom and dignity.

Assails 'Arafat's Behavior

JN162115 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Aleppo, northern Syria, 16 Oct (SANA) — General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces and defense minister, has affirmed that Syria will continue to support the Arab nation's steadfastness in order to confront all imperialist and Zionist challenges that hamper our people's march toward victory and liberation. In a speech he delivered today on the Air Force and Air Defense Day, Gen Talas said that Syria under the struggler President Hafiz al-Asad has loudly declared that only the Arab nation's flag will be hoisted in the homeland.

Gen Talas noted the maneuvers by the rightest leadership headed by Yasir 'Arafat. He said: He is fabricating incidents in fraternal Lebanon, particularly in Tripoli, following the mountain battle to prove to his American masters that he is still in the arena.

TISHRIN Criticizes 'Arafat's Plans With Jordan

JN171052 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Damascus, 17 Oct (SANA) — In its comment today, *Tishrin* says: Yasir 'Arafat has missed no opportunity to revive the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. Only a few days ago he said that the dialogue must be renewed and a confederation with Jordan must be realized. *Tishrin* adds: 'Arafat's statement coincides with two main events: the U.S. Administration's talk once again about Reagan's initiative as being the only formula to achieve peace in the region, which means U.S. readoption of the Jordanian option, and the U.S. statement on the need to form a Jordanian commando unit, financed by the United States, to act as a striking force to protect U.S. interests in the Arab Gulf and constitute the advanced vanguard of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force.

Tishrin adds: What reflects the seriousness of this step is that *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* have reported that Israel was informed in advance about this step and that the U.S. Administration had reassured Arens and his group that this step serves the interests of Israel before those of the United States.

Tishrin adds: This reveals the real intentions behind the formation of the Jordanian unit which will constitute an undeclared pressure force against Syria in view of the possibility that it could be deployed along the Jordanian-Syrian border.

Concluding, *Tishrin* says: This step does not intimidate Syria. President al-Asad has affirmed that fleets and aircraft carriers do not intimidate us.

TISHRIN Raps Formation of Jordanian RDF

JN161109 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Damascus, 16 Oct (SANA) — In its editorial today, *Tishrin* says: The report on arming two Jordanian divisions and putting them on alert as a rapid deployment force to confront any danger against the Gulf area is a strange development worthy of attention. *Tishrin* continues: This report was published by a U.S. newspaper. U.S. Department of State spokesman John Hughes refused to confirm or deny this report but asserted that Jordan is an important friend of the United States and that relations with Jordan in the field of arms supplies have been established for a long time. This ambiguous remark means that the U.S. spokesman did not want to admit the fact directly.

Tishrin says: Jordan is an Arab country. It has 600 km of common border with a fateful enemy which has been occupying

part of its territory since 1976. Jordan's concern must always be the protection of its long border and the restoration of the Arab territory's usurped parts. To consider for one moment that Jordanian soldiers will leave their country's long border with the Israeli enemy to wage possible battles in the Gulf is very strange and raises many questions.

Tishrin concludes: Jordan, as well as all the other Arabs, is fully aware that the only danger threatening the Arabs in the east, west, and the Gulf is the Zionist danger backed by its alliance with the United States.

Talas Views October Anniversary, Lebanon War

PM141458 Damascus Al-Ba'th in Arabic 9 Oct 83 p 6

[Interview with General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Syrian Army and Armed Forces and defense minister, by Salhah Nasr in Damascus — date not specified]

[Excerpts] Question: President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, has stressed the importance of maintaining a strategic balance with the enemy. He said that the enemy's superiority, although only in specific fields and limited in scope, should not and will not continue. What is the position of the Syrian Arab Army today in relation to the expected battle with the enemy, particularly 10 years after fighting the October battles? How far has this goal [of strategic balance] been translated in our steadfast army?

Answer: It is known that the 8 March revolution devoted great attention to the building of the Syrian Armed Forces. But even greater attention was paid to these forces after the corrective movement which President Hafiz al-Asad led on 16 November 1970 in accordance with the dictum that no voice should rise higher than the voice of battle. Our valiant Army has developed qualitatively in an unprecedented manner and has become one of the armies to be reckoned with in the area. This was the result of reorganizing the Army and arming it with the latest weapons as well as building it militarily and ideologically.

As known, strategic balance with the enemy suffered a certain setback when the Egyptian Army was taken out of the battle under the Camp David policy and as a result of agent As-Sadat's actions, which led the Syrian Arab region, under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership, to step up its efforts and its capabilities with the aim of restoring this balance while depending on its intrinsic resources. Our Army has made long strides on this path thanks to its sweat and efforts to overcome difficulties and obstacles. All this has enabled it to add to its heroic feats during the heroic battles it has fought in Lebanon against the fascist Zionist invasion.

Thus we can say that our Army has taken long strides on the path to translating strategic balance with the enemy into reality and is going ahead on this path with determination and resolve.

Question: The imperialist forces in Lebanon today are trying to avenge the fruits and victories of the October war by waging their aggressive campaign against Lebanon and against Syria in particular. How do you explain these attempts and the insistence on blaming Syria for what is happening in Lebanon?

Answer: The attempts by the imperialist forces in Lebanon and elsewhere to detract from the October war victories and wipe out its various positive results are well known and have been going on for a long time. We all recall that these attempts began even before that war ended, when Egypt's then ruler, As-Sadat, went along with those attempts in accordance with a plan to single out the Syrian Army. The fighting stopped [on the Egyptian front] while the Syrian Arab Army continued to fight alone. Those attempts continued after the war, when the imperialist and Zionist forces were able to take Egypt out of the battle through the treacherous disengagement agreements. Later the fires of war in Lebanon were ignited in order to obliterate the achievements of the October war, and this culminated in the fascist and barbaric invasion of Lebanon and the occupation of southern Lebanon in order to realize the ancient Zionist designs on Lebanon and the Arab homeland. Not satisfied with supporting and encouraging Israel and providing it with all the necessary political and military means for the invasion, the United States brought its fleets, aircraft carriers, and big battleships to the coast of Beirut and involved itself in the battles on the side of the forces of the Lebanese sectarian regime and of the agent Phalangist militia. And yet Syria is blamed for everything that is happening in Lebanon. We understand this to mean that the United States, Israel, and their agents are daily becoming certain that the stumbling bloc to their plans and attempts to impose their hegemony on the Arab area is Syria and its valiant army. But we stress once again that threats will not fighten us. We will give the appropriate response if Israel or the United States tries to attack our forces in Lebanon, and we will not allow the partitioning of Lebanon regardless of the cost to us.

Question: The Zionist chief of staff has stated that the Israeli army has prepared itself for confrontation with the Syrian forces and that there is no question about this. Israel is evidently now trying to undermine the cease-fire and hamper national dialogue. What is the comrade general's view of these statements and this Zionist escalation against Syria and the Arab will?

Answer: The statements of Israeli generals are numerous and are not new to us. Israel is well known for its treachery, aggression, and hatred for the Arabs in general and Syria in particular, but at the same time it realizes that the Syrian Army is not an easy target; it is prepared at any moment to reply to aggression.

With regard to Israel's attempts to undermine the cease-fire and hamper national dialogue, this is to be expected because Israel has a great interest in the continuation of fighting in Lebanon. But Syria warns against these attempts and is most anxious to maintain the cease-fire.

This Israeli escalation is backed by the United States, which has common objectives and interests with the Zionist enemy as both seek to exploit peoples. Those who are seeking this escalation will be sorry because they will be the losers in the end.

Question: The U.S. Congress bill equates the forces present in Lebanon, calling them "foreign forces," thus ignoring that the Syrian forces are Arab and not foreign forces. What is your opinion of this?

Answer: First, this is illogical and rejected both in letter and in spirit, but it is consistent with the interests and plans of the United States and Israel and their agents in Lebanon.

We would like to recall here that the Syrian forces entered Lebanon at the request of the legitimate Lebanese Government, in response to the fraternal Lebanese people's desire, and out of a commitment to national duty and to the historically neighborly relations between Syria and Lebanon. Moreover, their entry took place with unanimous Arab approval embodied in an Arab League resolution. The Syrian forces in Lebanon faced difficulties and hardships and offered sacrifices for the sake of Lebanon's Arabism, unity, and independence and in order to repel the barbaric Zionist invasion of Lebanese territory.

Second, equating the forces in this way is ridiculous and contrary to facts. The world forces of progress and peace are well aware of this. Moreover, the foreign forces in Lebanon should rather be called American forces because the majority consist of U.S. troops. The work of these forces complements the work of the Rapid Deployment Force and the U.S. bases in other parts of the area.

Question: The pro-Israeli imperialist forces have tried to distract attention from the central and basic problem, which is the Arab-Israeli conflict, and focus it on a marginal, though bloody, issue in Lebanon. What is your view of future matters.

Answer: Yes, the imperialist and Zionist forces have persistently been trying to distract the Arab people's attention from the central and basic problem, which is the usurpation of Palestine by the Zionist enemy, by the incidents they have created in Lebanon in to order abort the results of the October war. Their aim is to achieve their central objective, which is to finally liquidate the Palestine problem and impose coexistence with aggressive Israel as a fait accompli. But we say with confidence that these attempts have not succeeded and will not succeed.

With regard to the latest developments in Lebanon, we all realize that the cease-fire agreement reached at the end of September was a positive initiative and that Syria, under President al-Asad's leadership and by virtue of its firm and principled stand, played a principal role in reaching this decision.

Syria, as it has announced through its leader, is most anxious to uphold this decision but it warns of attempts by the United States, Israel, and their allies to hamper it and hinder it because they see in the decision an approach to total national reconciliation that ensures for Lebanon democratic political balance ensuring Lebanon's Arabism and commitment to the common Arab destiny. We can see and feel that the United States is trying to lend a NATO character to the military intervention in Lebanon which would, it imagines, exampt it from the consequences of its "overseas" involvement. We believe that U.S. diplomacy is bogged down in Lebanon's quicksands and is in its death throes. With regard to Israeli military movements, they complement the U.S. role in the attempt to prevent a national reconciliation that will preserve the integrity and Arabism of Lebanon.

Question: Revolutionary Syria — its party, leader, and people — has proved that just as it is capable of honoring national commitments and making sacrifices, it is also capable of enabling the success of the peace process in the area and has a final say in the matter of the national cause. How do you evaluate Syria's attitude in the achievement of the recent cease-fire in Lebanon?

Answer: As we said, Syria and its principled stand played a major and basic role in reaching a cease-fire. The Arab and international quarters have appreciated and praised this role. They also realized that Israel, which is backed by the United States, no longer has the final say in this area. Syria, which has stood and still stands firmly with the Lebanese people and their nationalist forces, will not allow the United States and Israel to impose their hegemony on Lebanon. Syria's commitment to principle and to its national role qualify it to shoulder this role and continue the battle of total national liberation.

Cabinet Discusses Mideast Situation 16 October

JN161657 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Excerpt] At 1200 today, the Cabinet met under Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm. During this meeting, the Cabinet reviewed the current situation in the region, political developments in the Lebanese arena, Arab and international contacts, and Syria's principal and pan-Arab role in confronting the objectives of the direct U.S. intervention in Lebanon and the region's affairs. They also discussed confronting the continued aggressive Israeli policy, its motives, and aims.

The Cabinet heard a political analysis in this regard by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Commentary Criticizes Lebanese Stand on Accord

JN141548 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] It is an indisputable fact that all the Lebanese want to be optimistic and want even more to have the forthcoming national accord solution succeed in freeing Lebanon from the tribulations of the Israeli occupation, U.S.-NATO hegemony, the internal fighting, and the Phalangist hegemony. This fact is indisputable. The Lebanese were able to catch their breath and enjoy some optimism when the cease-fire was stabilized and a committee to maintain it was formed. They felt even more optimistic when the preparatory committee for the national dialogue convened, despite a number of delegates' absence from the meeting. This preparatory committee termed its meeting positive and said that it had reached full and complete agreement, including agreement on the main topics to be discussed by the national dialogue committee.

However, this relatively cautious optimism did not continue because the president of the current Lebanese regime curtailed this popular optimism and rushed to cast doubt on the national accord process, considering the national reconciliation conference a distraction and a camouflage. He also cast doubt on the impartiality of the Lebanese nationalist parties that will partici-

pate in the national dialogue. Furthermore, the Lebanese president cut outthe path of hope from the Lebanese when he claimed that the reconciliation conference would be useless and that the solution can only come from Washington.

It might not be a coincidence that the Lebanese president's statements were published on the same day that the national dialogue preparatory committee met. What conclusion can the Lebanese individual derive from this? If this is the Lebanese president's conviction, then why did he invite the parties concerned to the national accord conference to meet? If the Lebanese regime considers this conference a distraction, a camouflage, and useless, why is this maneuver carried out against the Lebanese people and the real forces representing the majority of the Lebanese Arab people? It is strange at first glance to hear such statements by the Lebanese regime, but the reality of this regime's stands and of the full Phalangist hegemony makes this matter look normal and natural.

The fascist Phalangists are in fact against a national accord that leads to a balanced rule, to Lebanon's liberation from the Israeli occupation, and to Lebanon's salvation from U.S. influence and control because this accord conflicts with their interests, ties, and objectives, all of which are hostile to the Lebanese people now that those who signed the contract of submission with the Zionist enemy want to proceed with serving it in order to safeguard their private interests and hegemony over the Lebanese people. Moreover, those who yielded to Washington, which is hostile to the Lebanese people, want Washington now, as they wanted in the past, to transform Lebanon into a U.S. protectorate and a ranch for them. Thus, the statements of the Lebanese regime are not strange, nor are all of the obstruction activities that took place within the cease-fire security committee, or the attempts to undermine the national dialogue.

The cease-fire was a test of intentions and an opportunity for those who totally depended on Israel and Washington to reconsider their calculations. But it seems that they did not make use of the lesson and are trying to gain time in order to undermine what has been achieved, to end the cease-fire, and to make the national dialogue a failure. By doing so, they are not betting on the Lebanese people but on the enemies of the Lebanese people, on those who harbor ambitions for Lebanon's territory, and on those who dream of dominating Lebanon's destiny. It has been proved that they will not achieve their objectives of imposing hegemony on Lebanon — nor will the enemies achieve what they want in Lebanon — because the Lebanese people, by betting on Lebanon's enemies, with the help of Syria and the Arab brothers, will firmly oppose every attempt made to dictate on them the conditions of either the Zionist and U.S. enemies or their agents.

Furthermore, the Lebanese people will only accept the achievement of their objectives as expressed by the National Salvation Front [25-second break in transmission] the path of the people and to commit themselves to what the Lebanese people want, before the available time runs out.

We in Syria have affirmed several times that we will always, regardless of the cost, support Lebanon's Arab people and their unity and sovereignty, as well as the liberation of their territories from any kind of occupation or hegemony. We will always remain with Lebanon, the people and the homeland, and will not agree to have it become an Israeli-U.S. protectorate governed by a racist Phalangist hegemony. Only right will prevail.

TISHRIN Raps Attempts To Abort Lebanese Accord

JN151352 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Damascus, 15 Oct (SANA) — In its editorial today, *Tishrin* asserts that the Phalangist regime — authority, militias, and army — is openly procrastinating to abort the dialogue and then absolve itself of the commitment it made when the cease-fire agreement was reached. *Tishrin* adds: It seems that the Phalangist authorities want the cease-fire to be a final objective in order to absolve themselves of the dialogue and ignore the democratic achievements which the Lebanese Nationalist Forces have gained through their struggle and triumphs on the ground.

Tishrin continues: The new Lebanon with its political and social democratic bases is different from the Lebanon the Phalangists inherited from colonialism. U.S. and NATO fleets cannot prevent the birth of a balanced Lebanon.

Tishrin says: Any U.S.-Phalangist attempt to contain national dialogue and its objectives and obstruct the national reconciliation process and its objectives as well as the national dialogue process, which we consider the only way to solve the Lebanese problem on balanced national bases and to establish the new democratic Lebanon, will be considered by Syria a violation of the cease-fire and a rejection of the accord. Therefore, the Lebanese Nationalist Forces and the National Salvation Front, with the complete support of Syria, will have the right to absolve themselves of the cease-fire agreement, impose the battle against the Phalangist regime in the place and at the time they choose, and turn every Phalangist position into new Ash-Shuf and Suq al-Gharb.

Tishrin continues: The present talk about withdrawals, especially Syrian withdrawal, even before the Phalangist regime implements its declared pledges regarding dialogue and accord, will undermine such dialogue and accord and hamper any agreement to solve the Lebanese problem.

Tishrin continues: The Phalangists do not have the right to choose the solutions and agreements they like and ignore the ones they do not like. They must implement all the agreement's conditions, because they are integral conditions which fall together or must be implemented together. We must remember that they are not in a military or popular position which will allow them to make this choise.

Tishrin concludes: The Phalangist regime's exit from this impass passes through clear and definite choices, in fact, through one choice — the accord — and then the cancellation of the [Lebanese-Israeli] agreement.

Saudi Minister Makes Statement, Departs Damascus

JN162023 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text]Saudi Information Minister 'Ali ash-Sha'ir left Damascus this evening. In a statement to SANA, Ash-Sha'ir said: I was honored to convey a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz dealing with the current situation in the region and issues of mutual interest. The president asked me to convey a similar message to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Ash-Sha'ir added: I had the honor to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and be enlightened by his opinion on various current issues.

On his visit to Damascus, 'Ali ash-Sha'ir said: It falls within the framework of consultation between Saudi Arabia and Arab brothers on several issues, foremost of which is the convening of the Arab summit conference in Riyadh.

Kohen-Orgad Reportedly Next Finance Minister
TA171136 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1133 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Report by Gadi Sukenik from the prime minister's office in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] About 2 minutes ago MK Yig'al Kohen-Orgad left his meeting with the prime minister at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem. He declined to answer the question of whether he is the next finance minister. In answer to questions, he only said he had discussed the economic problems with the prime minister.

However, a few seconds later I received official confirmation from reliable sources that Yig'al Kohen-Orgad will indeed be sworn in at the Knesset this afternoon as Israel's next finance minister.

Shamir Threat
TA171511 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] MK Pinhas Goldstein of the Liberals has said that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir announced he would resign if he could not appoint Yiga'el Kohen-Orgad as finance minister. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Goldstein said Shamir had delivered his warning at a talk with one of the Liberal ministers.

Communique Issued on 16 Oct Cabinet Session
TA161209 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1140 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Communique on Cabinet session held on 16 October read by Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridorat the prime minister's office in Jerusalem — live; monitored in progress]

[Text]...on the Soviet Union to put an end to the policy of discrimination and oppression against Jews and the harassment of those Jews seeking to emigrate to Israel and live by their culture and the legacy of their forefathers. Israel calls on all the countries in the world and to all peace- and human freedom-seekers to appeal to the Soviet authorities and demand of them the immediate release of Yosef Begun from prison to allow him to emigrate to Israel and to grant Jews in the Soviet Union the human rights to which they are entitled. The prime minister and foreign minister also announced that the Foreign Ministry will prepare special actions on this matter.

The interior minister briefed the Cabinet about the act of violence perpetrated against the mayor of Jerusalem yesterday. The interior minister and other speakers who participated in the debate sharply denounced this act of violence. Summing up the debate, the prime minister said that the Cabinet awaits vehement and efficient action on the part of the police to end this sort of abominable action.

The Cabinet today approved the appointment of the deputy ministers who served during the previous Cabinet's term in power. The Cabinet will issue an announcement on this matter to the Knesset, as required by law.

The Bank of Israel governor was summoned to the Cabinet session today. He briefed the Cabinet about the latest economic developments. Among other things, the governor reported — not a very usual thing recently — a great improvement in Israel's trade balance in September. The governor also reported on the negotiations currently under way with representatives of the banks and the signing of the agreement about their shares. Following a debate, the Cabinet decided to appoint a ministerial committee — headed by the deputy prime minister and with the participation of Ministers Aharon Uzan, Zvulun Hammer, Ya'aqov Meridor, and Gid'on Pat — empowered to conclude the negotiations with the banks, according to the Cabinet's decisions.

Aridor To Leave Politics; Show of Support Planned
TA161413 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1352 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Yoram Aridor has informed those close to him that he intends to resign from his post as chairman of the Herut Movement Secretariat and from political life as a whole. In reaction to this, a mass demonstration is being organized this evening by Herut branches throughout Israel. These are people who will go to Yoram Aridor's home in the hope of getting him to change his mind. Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar reports that among the most prominent people at this evening's demonstration will be Deputy Agriculture Minister Mikha'el Deqel and MK Roni Milo, who are both very close to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Curfew Imposed in An-Nabatiyah After Riot Lifted
TA161758 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1720 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] A few minutes ago the curfew was lifted from An-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon. At noon 10 residents were wounded during a riot that broke out when IDF soldiers fired after thousands of Shi'ites who were taking part in a religious procession began to head toward them. An IDF investigation reveals that those injured were hurt while fleeing and were not wounded by soldiers' shots. Here is a report by Hayim Hecht in the north:

[Begin recording] This morning a convoy of IDF vehicles was making its way toward the Az-Zahrani River. When the convoy reached the main street of An-Nabatiyah, it got caught up at the height of the 'Ashura' festivities.

About 150,000 Shi'ites were gathered in the town for a religious festival whose main themes are murder, revenge, blood, and flagellation. Shi'ites, enveloped in cloaks and masks, crowded into the streets, beating themselves with whips and iron chains until their blood ran. The arms and faces of some of the celebrants were covered with the blood of sheep that had been slaughtered by the side of the road. Many of the celebrants had entered a genuine state of ecstasy.

The convoy was caught in the middle of this furor and three vehicles found themselves surrounded by a crowd of emotional Shi'ites. Suddenly, handgrenades were thrown from the crowd at the vehicles, and bursts of automatic fire were directed at the IDF soldiers. The soldiers abandoned the vehicle and tried to find cover. Burning rags were thrown at two military trucks and a command car. These went up in flames and fanned the emotional crowd's feelings even more. Several of the soldiers fired into the air at first, but that firing did not stop the Shi'ites from continuing to besiege the soldiers.

At this point the soldiers were forced to fire into the crowd and several people were seen to fall, covered in blood. A large IDF force that was rushed to the spot was, in fact, helpless, since not much could be done because of the tens of thousands of celebrants.

Luckily, within a short time all the patrol's soldiers were collected together. When it became clear that not one of our soldiers had been hit or was missing, actions to clear the main street began. As I said, a curfew was declared on the spot, which lasted until just now. Today's 'Ashura' festivities were not unexpected and last year's experience also featured riots and trouble. Why, then, did an IDF convoy have to be in An-Nabatiyah's main street right in the middle of these festivities? The answer I was given to this question was that there was simply no other road to take. [end recording]

Calm Restored; IDF Warning

TA171025 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Life has returned to normal in An-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the market where an IDF convoy was attacked yesterday was crowded. At the same time, the security forces and the Haddad people have stepped up the controls and checks at the roadblocks. IDF officers conferred with Shi'ite clergy and made it clear to them that if it transpires that any of them collaborate with terrorist organizations, the IDF will not hesitate to adopt firm measures against them. The IDF officers nevertheless emphasized that the relations between the Shi'ites and the IDF soldiers in southern Lebanon are gradually improving.

Beirut radio claimed this morning that 1 man was killed and 15 wounded by IDF soldiers' shots in yesterday's incident. Our correspondent had reported that a debriefing conducted by IDF officers indicated that none of the casualties in the incident were caused by our soldiers' shots.

Phalangists Fear Additional IDF Pullback

TA170831 Tel Aviv Davar in Hebrew 17 Oct 83 p 3

[Report by the Arab affairs correspondent]

[Text] The Phalangists have recently been spreading rumors in southern Lebanon alleging that the IDF will soon carry out a "partial withdrawal" south of its present deployment line along the Al-Awwali River to a line parallel to the Az-Zahrani River. These reports, which are utterly baseless, have caused panic among the local Shi'ite population, and some of the inhabitants have begun moving out of their homes north of the Beirut area.

One of the Lebanese Shi'ite sect's top leaders, Shaykh Mahdi Shams ad-Din, yesterday strongly attacked Israel and called on his fellow sect members to announce "a comprehensive civil uprising" against Israeli rule in southern Lebanon.

Knesset Members Tour Southern Lebanon 16 Oct

TA161807 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] The members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee subcommittee on Lebanon toured southern Lebanon today. They met with local inhabitants, visited the Ansar camp, and were briefed by IDF commanders.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the subcommittee members demonstrated special interest in the services rendered to the inhabitants in the areas under the IDF's control. They were briefed in great detail about the nature of relations between the various sects and groupings in southern Lebanon.

Protest Conveyed to U.S. Over Jordanian Force

TA161052 Tel Aviv 'Al Hamishmar in Hebrew 16 Oct 83 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Alex Fishman]

[Text] Israel has in the last few weeks conveyed several protests to the United States over the U.S. Administration's plan to establish a Jordanian commando force based on the local Army. Israel has also asked for clarifications from the United States about the nature and essence of the Jordanian commando force which will be trained by U.S. military personnel and which will be equipped with very advanced weapons and communications systems.

In its protests to the U.S. Administration, Israel emphasized that it is in principle opposed to any further strengthening of Jordan that is not coupled with a Jordanian political expression of readiness to proceed toward a settlement with Israel. It was also noted in Israel that given the present circumstances, it was impossible to ascertain that such a Jordanian force would not be used against Israel. Our correspondent points out that the U.S. Administration has this year frozen $33 million in direct military aid to Jordan because of its rejection of President Reagan's plan. However, paradoxically enough, this year the administration has asked Congress to approve $200 million in indirect military aid to Jordan to finance the establishment, training, and equipping of the commando force.

The allocation for the U.S. aid plan to the Jordanian elite unit is concealed in the budget of the U.S. Defense Department and has been discussed by congressional committees behind closed doors.

Although Israeli officials have only in the last few weeks been alerted to the indirect military aid to Jordan, the foundations of this plan were laid over 2 years ago during Secretary of

Defense Caspar Weinberger's visit to Jordan. This is the first time that the administration has asked Congress to approve indirect military aid to Jordan in the context of its efforts to establish a military force in Jordan with rapid deployment capabilities in the event of possible conflagrations in the Persian Gulf, Saudi Arabia, and North Yemen within the framework of the secret plan to establish rapid deployment forces in the region based on local armies.

Tank, Armored Car Protective Device Invented

TA161514 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] The Armaments Development Authority, Refa'el, today disclosed a new device for active defense of tanks and armored personnel carriers against hits by shells with hollow charges. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the principle upon which the invention is based has been kept secret, but from the outside the tank appears to be covered by rows and rows of metal boxes. In the Lebanon war there was evidence that the new shield prevented IDF soldiers from being hit. The director of Refa'el, Dr Ze'ev Gonen, has reported that this is an original Refa'el development and is used solely by the IDF.

Shamir To Appeal to Egypt for Better Relations

TA170835 Tel Aviv Ha'aretz in Hebrew 17 Oct 83 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Shortly after he overcomes the economic crisis, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will appeal to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to reopen the autonomy talks without preconditions. He will also propose to open a new page in Jordanian-Egyptian relations. [sentence as published] A political source associated with the prime minister added that Shamir had asked the administration leaders in Washington to make it clear to Egypt that bringing the ambassador back to Tel Aviv and unfreezing relations with Israel are distinctly in U.S. interests.

In light of vigorous contacts between the Israeli Embassy in Cairo and the Egyptian authorities, the two Israeli geologists expelled from the Cairo University international geological conference were subsequently allowed to participate in it. Efforts to locate the two, who were already on their way back to Israel, lasted until very late. It has been learned that Jerusalem reacted severely to the boycott imposed on the Israeli scientists, especially since the United States too had been promised that Israel would participate in the conference, considered of top significance in the field of geology.

Begin 'Wishes To Resign' From Herut, Knesset

TA170832 Tel Aviv Davar in Hebrew 17 Oct 83 p 1

[Report by A. Kinarti]

[Text] Former Prime Minister Menahem Begin wishes to resign from the "Herut" movement leadership and its executive and is likewise considering resigning from the Knesset "for personal reasons." He reported this to some of his associates from the "Herut" movement lately; yet they are trying to prevent him from withdrawing from the party institutions and the Knesset.

Davar has learned that Begin has recently said he is not sure whether he would keep his Knesset seat in this term or whether, in his condition, he would be able to devote himself to parliamentary activity or movement activity as its chairman and the chairman of the "Herut" movement executive.

It should be noted that the "Herut" movement executive has not convened in over 18 months now and that there is no substitute for the executive chairmanship.

Consumer Price Index Rises 9 Percent in September

TA141243 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Excerpts] The consumer price index rose by 9 percent last month, the highest rate ever recorded since the founding of the State of Israel in the month of September. The annual rate of inflation now stands at 131 percent. The price of fruits and vegetables rose more than anything else last month, by 22 percent. The cost-of-living increase that will be paid for the last 3 months will amount to 20.5 percent.

Data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics also reveal that the trade deficit in September was 68 percent lower than in August. However, our correspondent points out that this drop stemmed mainly from an extraordinary cut in oil imports, which may involve a drop in oil reserves. During the first 9 months of 1983, the trade deficit rose by 16 percent. Imports of consumer goods rose by 20 percent.

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ALGERIA

Bendjedid Receives Saudi Prince Faysal

LD142258 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party, received Prince Saud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister and special envoy of the King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who delivered a message from the Saudi king to the brother president of the republic at noon today. The meeting was attended by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, and the Saudi ambassador to Algeria. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Algiers this evening. He was seen off by the secretary general at the Foreign Ministry, Brother (Al-Hadj) 'Abd al-Qadir 'Attuf). The Saudi envoy had arrived in Algiers carrying a message from the King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to Brother President Chadli Bendjedid. At Houari Boumediene International Airport he was welcomed by Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Saudi ambassador to Algeria.

Senegal President Diouf Arrives in Algiers

LD142229 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Excerpts] President Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal, arrived in Algiers this afternoon on a 4-day official visit to our country at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party. At the airport VIP lounge, Senegalese President Abdou Diouf made a statement to national and international press representatives. At the beginning of his statement, President Abdou Diouf expressed his happiness at visiting Algeria. He thanked President Chadli Bendjedid, the president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN party, who provided him with this opportunity and he conveyed the greetings of the Senegalese people to their fraternal Algerian people — greetings of fraternity, friendship, and solidarity in all fields. These are evident from the active and diversified cooperation between the two countries. President Abdou Diouf said: I have come to see President Chadli Bendjedid personally, a man of wisdom and equilibrium. The Third World and indeed the whole world thinks so. I have come to hold talks and discussions with my brother and friend, President Chadli Bendjedid, not only on matters of bilateral cooperation, but also on all the major problems and issues and primarily the urgent issues of our African Continent. This is the aim of my visit to Algeria and as a our contribution to finding solutions to these issues.

Nicaraguan Government Delegation Ends Visit

LD150250 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] The visit paid to our capital by Dr Sergio Ramirez, member of the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction, ended this morning. During his 2-day visit, he held a series of talks with Algerian leaders and was received by President Chadli Bendjedid, which enabled him to strengthen the relations between Algeria and Nicaragua.

LE MONDE Reports Mauroy-Bendjedid Algiers Talks

PM141435 Paris Le Monde in French 13 Oct 83 p 6

[Alain Rollat dispatch: "End of Mr Pierre Mauroy's Visit to Algiers"]

[Excerpt] Algiers — The 1-hour meeting which [French Premier] Mr Pierre Mauroy had with Algerian head of state Mr Chadli Bendjedid on the morning of Tuesday 11 October was devoted essentially to international affairs. Anticipating his host's concerns, the premier explained in particular France's decision to supply Iraq with five Super Etendard attack aircraft.

He stated that France "has no particular interest" in the conflict between Iraq and Iran, that it "does not want a military solution," that, moreover, it does not think "such a solution possible" and that it notes that one of the sides, Iraq, agrees to refer the matter to the United Nations.

Mr Mauroy added that the supply of the Super Etendard aircraft is part of the arms sales contracts concluded with Baghdad by previous governments. He recalled that, in keeping with those contracts, the Iraqi Army has already long been using Exocet missiles in its war with Iran. He stressed that, in any case, France regards that war as "absurd" and "has no aggressive feelings toward Iran."

After recalling the French position on Chad and Lebanon, Mr Mauroy also discussed the situation in the Western Sahara with Mr Bendjedid. According to Mr Mauroy, the Algerian president hopes that "France will intervene to make possible a peaceful settlement to this conflict between Morocco and the Polisario." The premier hinted that Mr Francois Mitterrand might announce an initiative in that connection when Mr Bendjedid visits France in November.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Mauritanian President

LD141043 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Oct 83

[Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution received Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and president of Mauritania, this morning. Lt Col Ould Haydala left Tripoli at noon today after a visit to Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud led those who saw off the Mauritanian president and the delegation accompanying him at Tripoli International Airport. Also he was seen off by the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions in Libya.

Cables Al-Qadhdhafi on Departure

LD141049 Tripoli JANA in English 0822 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Tripoli, Muharram 8 Oct 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Lt Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala sent the following cable to the leader of the revolution following his departure at midday yesterday.

Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, while I am leaving the beloved city of Tripoli I would like to express thanks and fratitude on my behalf and on behalf of my accompanying delegation for the warm reception and hospitality we met through our stay in the Jamahiriyah. I am quite confident that our talks will have positive results in bolstering our fraternal relations for the interest of both our brotherly peoples. I also hope our talks will contribute to uniting the Arab nation and consolidating cooperation and solidarity among the Arab and African countries so as to confront all the challenges facing the Arab and Islamic nation as well as the African peoples. Please accept my highest fraternal respects. Your brother, Colonel Khouna Ould Haydala, Chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Al-Qadhdhafi Clarifies View of Italian Relations

LD151607 Rome Domestic Service in Italian 2300 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi is demanding war reparations from Italy and affirms that this is the only obstacle to the development of friendly relations between the two countries. Here is a dispatch from Tripoli by Leopoldo Innocenti:

[Innocenti] If we do not solve together and in a friendly way the dispute of the past Italian colonialism in our country, there can be serious consequences. A few hours ago, Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi uttered these words in Tripoli in a calm but firm voice in the tent that is now part of the official show. Before the major representatives of the Italian papers, the colonel spoke of the 35 years of colonization of his country, pointing out that the crimes of the Italians were seen worse than those committed by Hitler against the Jews.

This is in brief the views of the Libyan leader at the press conference. On one hand, he makes on behalf of the Libyan people precise demands for reparations, but on the other, leaves the door open to a friendly and constructive dialogue with a partner such as Italy, who is regarded by Al-Qadhdhafi as extremely important.

It was said that 20,000 Italians live and work in Libya and, therefore, it is in the interests of the two countries to put into action the new historical and friendly relations between the two countries. This is what Al-Qadhdhafi told us:

[Begin recording]

[Innocenti] Does it not appear, Colonel, that this beginning of a friendly dialogue that you define has made a bad start in view of the fact that the town is plastered with placards accusing Italy in various ways?

[Al-Qadhdhafi in Arabic with superimposed Italian translation] This is the expression of the Libyan people toward colonialism. It is only Libya's spirit toward a certain past.

[Innocenti] However, the masses are not placated by exciting them. They are placated in a different way. Also, in your speech of 7 October, you used a kind of indirect blackmail by saying that the Libyans will decide the issues. What do you mean by this kind of speech?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] That is not the spirit. There is nothing on my part that pushes toward hatred. On the contrary, I clarified to the Libyan people that we have good relations with Italy and with the new government. [end recording]

Speaks to Italian Press

LD161815 Tripoli JANA in English 1435 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Tripoli, Muharram 10, October 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — [Word indistinct] the revolution's leader yesterday evening spoke to a group of Italian jouranlists representing the Italian news agency ANSA, the economic news agency ENDROC, Radio I and II, the papers *Corriere Della Sera, Il Giorno, La Stampa, La Repubblica, Avanti, Paese Sera, L'Unita and L'Ora. The main subject of conversation was the* issue of reparations for the 35-year period of Italian colonisation of the Libyan Arab people and the heavy damage incurred on them during this cruel period of colonisation. The leader said the issue of reparations does not stem from any aggressive intent towards the Italian people. On the contrary, he said, the issue is being stressed in a desire to establish close historic relations between both peoples.

The leader said: "I have come to the conclusion that close historic trans-Mediterranean relations cannot be established between both countries unless this problem is solved. It has been made clear to me that all Libyans are imbued with a spirit of revenge for Italian colonialism and that it is essential to solve this psychological complex of the Libyans so that they may establish good historic relations with italy."

The leader continued: "If this psychological problem is not solved, then the Libyans might do things whose future consequences would not be praiseworthy, and all because of this complex and feeling that they were maltreated. We do not want these negative consequences to develop and therefore say that this problem must be solved." The leader told the Italian press "there is another important point that lies behind the Libyan people's demand for reparations. It is their desire that colonisation should not be repeated in the future anywhere in the world. If colonisation is not punished, it will be repeated elsewhere in the future. But if colonialism pays the price of its crimes, this would act as a future deterrent to any colonialist designs."

The leader said "anyone who does not want to see the recurrence of colonialism in the world will support us in our demand. This means that peace-loving forces will support us. No one will oppose our demand except those who do not wish to impose penalties on colonialism. This means all peace-loving forces will support us.

There is a third point related to the subject of reparations. Libya and Italy currently enjoy good relations, especially in the field of economics. These relations are in favour of Italy which is Libya's major trading partner... One quarter of Libya's imports come from Italy and half of Libya's EEC imports come from Italy... Libya's annual imports from Italy are currently running at 3 billion dollars and are increasing by an annual rate of 60 percent. There are 20,000 Italians working in the Jamahiriyah. Italian companies have signed contracts with Libya worth approximately 6 billion dollars. This means that there are possibilities of massive economic cooperation between the two countries, but this might totally collapse if the problem of reparations is not solved."

In response to many questions put to him by Italian journalists on the Libyan Arab people's demand for reparations, the revolution's leader answered a question as to the method of solving this problem by saying: "This can be accomplished by discussions between both sides and the use of earlier precedents, the closest to our case being West Germany's reparations to the Jews.

Fascist Italy killed 750,000 Libyans, destroyed the country, colonised it for 35 years, and exiled half its population. Italian colonialism did to the Libyans more than what was done to the Jews by Hitler who only killed people, whereas the Italians colonised Libyan territory, killed Libyans, dispersed them, and destroyed their land." The revolution's leader stressed the importance and necessity of solving this problem which is a psychological complex for Libyans. He said, "If this problem is not solved, this psychological complex will lead to war in future even after one or two generations... The Libyans must regain their rights and their honour must be reinstated... But we want to reach an amicable solution to this issue." The leader added: "The expulsion of remnants of the Italian invaders from Libya in 1970 and the regaining of the property they usurped from the Libyans is a natural thing and has no bearing on the reparations issue..." He said, "The regaining of Libyan property does not constitute compensation for 700,000 martyrs, 35 years of colonisation, the exile of many Libyans, and the destruction of Libyan territory."

In response to a question of Libyan-Italian relations, the leader said: "The Jamahiriyah has good relations with Italy, and by solving this issue of reparations, no problems will remain between the two countries. Reparations is the only problem existing between us. This problem can be solved in view of the existing good relations between the two countries."

The leader continued: "With regard to the establishment of an American missile base in Comiso, this matter constitutes a threat to both Italy and Libya. The Libyan Arab and Italian people should unite in a struggle against these bases... We stand behind the Italian people against the American colonisation of Italy and against foreign bases and nuclear war. We stand with them against American bases in Italy and against the deployment of American missiles which will make Italy a nuclear target in any new war in which Italy will be destroyed and in which America will escape destruction." In response to questions by the Italian press delegation, the revolutions leader said: "The amount of reparations should be doubled because the reparations will compensate the Libyans for damage and losses brought about by Italy and because these losses come as a result of cruelty and aggression.

What colonialist Italy commited against the Libyans can be compared to the act of a burglar. The punishment for stealing not only stipulates the restoration of stolen property but also punishment for stealing property in the first place... Making good the losses incurred on Libya is something natural... Doubling the punishment acts as the sanction levied against the burglar who stole in the first place...

The non-implementation of the law of reparations will mean colonisation will be repeated... We want, through this, to put an end to colonialism. Any country that has colonised another must pay the price of its deeds whatever the time lapse... This in itself is a deterrent to colonisation... Why should the world accept reparation payments by present-day Germany for the deeds of Hitlerite Germany and refuse the Libyan Arab people's demand for reparations... We must start negotiations. Otherwise, we will accuse present-day Italy of being aligned with fascism and of defending the actions of colonalism... This will harm Italy's prestige in the world once again."

In response to a question of making reparations universally-applicable principle, the leader said, "From now on, the principle of reparations should become a universal principle so that colonialism may not be repeated. The goal behind seeking reparations is more to prevent the repetition of colonialism than to compensate the Libyan Arab people. Therefore, anyone who opposes reparations must be seen as siding with the idea of colonialism."

At the end of his meeting with the Italian press, the leader reaffirmed: We want to negotiate in good faith to resolve this issue so that it would not influence our future relations with Italy which we want to be good historic relations and an example of cooperation amongst Mediterranean people... We want the Mediterranean to become a sea of peace traversed not by naval war fleets but by commercial and touristic fleets... We do not depart from any aggressive spirit... We all depart from a spirit that loaths colonialism and does not want to see it repeated. With the solution of this issue, room will be made for the future establishment of useful relations between both peoples."

Foreign Minister Departs France 14 Oct

NC141903 Paris AFP in English 1845 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Paris, Oct 14 (AFP) — Libyan Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi left here today after talks with French officials over the latest diplomatic incident between the two countries. Mr al-'Ubaydi arrived here on Wednesday soon after 37 French travellers were finally allowed to leave Libya after being held for 48 hours. He had talks with French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, but there was no indication of their nature.

However Mr al-'Ubaydi on his arrival mentioned the case of Rashid Sa'id Muhammad 'Abdallah, a Libyan being held by France pending his extradition to Italy to face trial for terrorist offences. Mr al-'Ubaydi said that Mr 'Abdallah could not be blamed for anything he had done in France. While in Tripoli an influential member of one of the Libyan capital's five revolutionary councils said that the detention of Mr 'Abdallah and the holding of the 37 travellers were linked.

(The man, who refused to be identified, said that Mr 'Abdallah had never been to Milan, where he is alleged to have murdered an opponent in exile of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Mr 'Abdallah had been arrested in error, the man said, and he warned, "We will not leave him in prison. There are several ways of responding if he stays there.")

'Further Repercussions' Warned

LD151127 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Libyan Ambassador to France Mr (Sa'id Hafiana) does not rule out further difficulties between Paris and Tripoli. The Libyan diplomat said that there may be further repercussions if Libyan national Sa'id Muhammed Rashid 'Abdallah, who was arrested in Paris last week, is extradited to Italy. France must bear responsibility because this matter is intolerable to us, Mr Hafiana added. The Libyan ambassador to France said that there is a link between the recent affair of the 37 French nationals detained in Tripoli and the arrest of the Libyan national. This statement was made to the *La Croix* paper.

Denmark Apologizes for Actions Against Delegation

LD151416 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] The Danish Government has officially apologized to the Jamahiriyah for the measures recently taken by Danish authorities against a Libyan Arab delegation. In a note delivered this morning by Danish Minister of Housing Niels Bollman to the Foreign Liaison Bureau in Tripoli, the Danish Government said that it strongly denounces the regrettable error and apologizes for everything to which the Libyan Arab delegation was exposed. In its note, the Danish Government said that it pays the utmost attention to the continued development of friendly relations between the Jamahiriyah and Denmark. The note, delivered by the housing minister, added that the Danish Government sincerely hopes that this apology will settle the matter so that efforts will continue for the development of good relations between Denmark and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for the good of the two peoples.

Ethiopian Communications Minister Arrives

LD162228 Tripoli JANA in English 1855 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Tripoli, Muharram 10, October 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Ethiopian Minister of Communications, Yusuf Ahmed, arrived in Tripoli today at noon on a visit to the Jamahiriyah.

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Visiting Soviet Official Conveys Andropov Message

LD141750 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Excerpt] This morning President Habib Bourguiba received Yakov Petrovich Ryabov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, in the presence of Mohamed Sayah, the minister of public works, Ahmed Ben 'Arfah, the secretary of state for international cooperation attached to the Foreign Ministry, and the ambassadors of both countries. President Bourguiba bestowed on Ryabov the Tunisian Republican Medal of the First Grade. Following the audience, Ryabov said that he had conveyed to President Bourguiba a message of friendship from Chairman Yuriy Andropov, in which he expressed his best wishes for good health, happiness, and the bolstering of relations between the USSR and Tunisia in the cause of cooperation and friendship among world proples.

Ryabov, who will attend the celebration marking the 20th anniversary of Evacuation Day at Bizerte tomorrow, expressed to the supreme combatant his congratulations and those of the Soviet people on this occasion.

The Soviet official said that during the meeting, which he described as extremely cordial, relations of cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the field of water, were discussed. He expressed the satisfaction of both sides at the completion of the (?Jumin) Dam ahead of schedule. He highlighted President Bourguiba's anxiousness to complete [words indistinct] as early as possible so that Tunisia would have new water resources to satisfy drinking water needs and to help the country's agricultural prosperity.

More on Visit of Libya's Al-Humaydi

Meets With Bourguiba

LD141249 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba this morning received in the presence of Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, the assistant chief of staff of the Libyan Armed Forces and member of the Libyan Revolution Command, Major Al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi and members of his delegation, which includes in particular the Libyan secretary for oil petroleum, Kamal Hasan al-Maqhur, and the secretary for planning [title as heard] Fawzi ash-Shakshuki. The audience was also attended by the commissioners of both countries. President Bourguiba warmly welcomed the Libyan guest and asked him to convey his greetings to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Major al-Humaydi, on his part, expressed the utmost respect the commander of the Libyan revolution holds for President Bourguiba. He said: Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has sent me to fraternal Tunisia to share your celebration of the great anniversary of the evacuation of the colonialists from the land of Bizerte.

At the end of the audience, during which the president spoke of the battle of evacuation, the supreme combatant bestowed on Major al-Humaydi the Medal of the Republic of the First Grade.

Before leaving the Republican Palace, the Libyan guest expressed his astonishment at what he heard from the president about the bright living history of the Tunisian people's struggle against French colonialism until the complete liberation of the entire Tunisian territory. He expressed his hope that the struggle of President Bourguiba would remain the beacon for the rising

Arab generations, so that the whole Arab territories would remain free and honorable. In conclusion, Maj al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi said that during his audience with President Bourguiba, he raised the question of Libyan-Tunisian relations, and that the Tunisian president affirmed the need for the continuation and deepening of these relations.

Meets Chedli Klibi

LD141059 Tripoli JANA in English 1000 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Tunis, Muharram 9, Oct 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Major al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi met the general secretary of the Arab League, Chedli Klibi, in Tunis at noon yesterday where he analysed in this meeting the new imperialist crusade which threatens the entire Arab existance, underlining the role of the Arab League and its general secretary to crystalise united Arab stands against this attack and the firm positions of the Great Al Fatah Revolution against this attack. Major al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi talked also about the preparations for the next Arab summit emphasising the Jamahiriyah's rejection to Egypt's return to the League unless it totally abandons the Camp David treaty.

Meets Defense Minister

LD142332 Tripoli JANA in English 1655 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Tunis, Muharram 8, Oct 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Tunisian Minister of Defence, Slaheddine Baly, has stressed the importance of developing the Libyan-Tunisian relations in all fields including the military one. He hailed in his meeting on Wednesday night with Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi at the Tunisian Ministry of Defence headquarters, the efforts exerted in building the Libyan Arab Armed Forces on modern bases. "I saw this for myself during the celebration of the 14th anniversary of the Great Al Fateh Revolution. This is of course a gain for the Arab nation as a whole because the Libyan Armed Forces are considered an important pillar in defence of the Arab nation against the vicious imperialist attack."

He went on to say that exchanging visits and expertise among different Arab armies would contribute to creating an Arab force, modern and appropriately equipped, respected by the friends and feared by the enemies. "In this respect, the recent visit of the two Libyan warships, *Ibn Auf* and *Ibn al Harith*, with their 300 naval cadets on board, to Arab Maghreb ports is a positive sign and a bridge for better relations among the Arab Maghreb and forces in this Arab homeland and a step towards the comprehensive Arab unity."

Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Jumaydi, assistant chief of staff of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, had a meeting on Wednesday evening with the Tunisian minister of defence, Slaheddine Baly. The meeting was also attended by high-ranking Tunisian officers and the Libyan and Tunisian commissioners. It was focused on the two countries' relations in different fields. Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi stressed in this meeting the importance of developing the relations between the two brotherly peoples in different fields. "Such relations, based on mutual respect and cooperation, will have positive bearing on the interests of both Libyan and Tunisian people and on the rest of Arab countries who will join long-sought Arab unity."

Major al-Khuwaylidi also expressed his admiration of the Tunisian people's struggle, under the leadership of the Great Mujahid, Habib Bourguiba, against French colonialism. "We are pleased to take part in the Tunisian people's celebration of the evacuation of French troops from Tunisia and the restoration of the country's sovereignty. The colonial forces which were driven out of Libya and Tunisia are back again in the area to colonise other Arab countries. The US and French naval shelling of Lebanon is part of the long conspiratorial series against the Arab nation."

Major al-Humaydi also pointed out to the US and British forces' joint manoeuvres with some Arab armies saying that such moves are new colonial attempts to recolonise the Arab world. He appealed for serious work and frankness in the order to channel all the Arab military capabilities towards the complete liberation of occupied Arab territories. "We in the Jamahiriyah train the people to carry arms and to confront the repeated US provocations which are aimed at undermining the Libyan people's achievements and the Great Al Fateh Revolution." In the end Major al-Humaydi stressed the importance of the exchange of visits of military delegations between the Jamahiriyah and Tunisia in order to develop the military expertise and capabilities of Arab soldiers.

Receives Medal From Bourguiba

LD142319 Tripoli JANA in English 1854 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Tunis, Muharram 8, Oct 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia this morning received at the presidential palace in Carthage Major al-Khuwaylidi al- Humaydi in the presence of Mohamed Mzali, secretary general of the party and prime minister, Kamil al-Maqhur, secretary of oil, Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of planning, and the general commissioners of both countries. President Bourguiba decorated Major al-Humaydi with the First Order of the Republic in his honour. Following the meeting, Major al-Humaydi made a statement in which he said he delivered the greetings of the leaders of the revolution to his Brother President Habib Bourguiba and the brotherly Tunisian people. He added that the meeting dealt with Libyan-Tunisian relations and means of bolstering them along the road of achieving the aspirations of both peoples.

Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi expressed his satisfaction for his presence with his delegation in Tunisia to take part in the celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of evacuating the French troops from Banzart base which crowned the struggle of the Tunisian people led by the great Mujahed Habib Bourguiba by achieving freedom over the Arab soil in Tunisia. He also expressed deep satisfaction towards the statements made by President Bourguiba on the history of struggle of the people in Tunisia and how they fought the French colonialists and drove them out of Tunisian territory. He said: "I hope this struggle for freedom will be an example for Arab generations in Tunisia so as to be free and dignified forever."

Interior Minister Expresses 'Appreciation'

LD142318 Tripoli JANA in English 1858 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Tunis, Muharram 8, Oct 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Driss Guiga, the Tunisian minister of the interior, expressed his appreciation towards the Great Al Fateh Revolution and its leader. He said in a statement to our correspondent that: "We highly appreciate the arrival of Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and his accompanying delegation to Tunisia to take part in the celebrations of the Tunisian people marking a dear occasion for all the Arabs, namely the evacuation of the French colonialist forces from Bizerte [word indistinct] this occasion which is considered as an epic of the Arab struggle.

Mr Guiga lauded the great progress in the relations between the Jamahiriyah and Tunisia in all sectors stressing that this improvement in the positive cooperation between both sisterly countries is a brick in the joint construction of the unity of the Arab Maghreb countries along the road to achieve the aspirations of the Arab masses in their overall unity.

President Bourguiba Appoints New Ministers

LD141236 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] This morning at the Republican Palace at Carthage, President Habib Bourguiba received Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali in the presence of Habib Bourguiba Jr, the personal adviser of the president of the republic.

Following the meeting, Prime Minister Mzali said that the president of the republic had decided to appoint Rachid Sfar as minister of national economy to succeed Abdelaziz Lasram, who was invited to perform other duties. Habib Touhami was appointed minister of public health and Izzedine Chalabi was appointed minister of tourism and traditional industries.

Mzali Meets With USSR Economic Relations Official

LD140931 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Oct 83

[Text] This afternoon, Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali had a meeting at government house in Qasbah with the Deputy Chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Mr (Tribovich), who stated after the meeting that he had discussed with Mr Mzali a number of issues relating to bilateral cooperation in various economic-technical fields and means of promoting this cooperation as much as possible.

He explained that the two countries have gone a long way in the field of cooperation and particularly in the fields of dam building and the implementation of irrigation projects.

The Soviet guest expressed his agreement to the prime minister's remarks and guidance with regard to consolidating the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in the service of development in preservation of peace and security in the world.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives 16 Oct

LD161338 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Tunisia this morning. He was received at the airport by Mr Beji Caid es-Sebsi, the minister of foreign affairs, and by Mr Chedli Klibi, the secretary general of the Arab League. The Saudi minister gave the following interview to [name indistinct] at the Tunis-Carthage International Airport:

[Begin recording] [Sa'ud al-Faysal] [words indistinct] This message concerns the nature of [word indistinct] and the continuous cooperation between our two countries, as well as what the Arab nation as a whole is currently living through. As you know, we are used to coordination between our two countries, especially since we have joint aims and both aspire to establish sufficient Arab cooperation to face up to [words indistinct].

[Interviewer] Minister, is it probable that you will discuss the coming Arab summit, which will be held in Riyadh, with the president?

[Sa'ud al-Faysal] Naturally, the summit, as you know, is for all the Arab world. Tunisia and the Kingdom are both anxious to establish Arab cooperation and are working to guarantee the success of the summit. During this visit I am also pleased to meet with the secretary general of the Arab League who, as you know, is carrying the responsibility of joint Arab action. It will be an opportunity to meet his excellency and to discuss matters with him. [end recording]

Received by Bourguiba

LD162205 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] At the presidential palace in Carthage, His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba received in his office Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, in the presence of Messrs Mohamed Mzali, the prime minister; Habib Bourguiba Jr, the private adviser to the president of the republic; and Beji Caid es-Sebsi, the foreign minister. The meeting was also attended by the Saudi charge d'affaires in Tunis. Following the meeting, the president and Mrs Bourguiba invited Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and the personalities present to a luncheon banquet. A number of government members and the secretary general of the Arab League, Chedli Klibi, were also invited.

Before leaving the presidential palace in Carthage, the Saudi minister made a statement which said in part: I have had the honor to meet His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba to whom I have conveyed a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. As usual, I have found him to be zealous concerning Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian issue. His struggle in this respect is acknowledged and has been well known for a long time. His view on these matters is, as expected, far-sighted. I believe that the proposals which his excellency has put forward will be positive and practical and I will convey them to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali at noon today held a working session with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi and Saudi charge d'affaires Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Ghamidi were present. The private adviser to the president of the republic, Habib Bourguiba Jr, and the secretary general of the Arab League, Chedli Klibi, also attended the talks.

DJIBOUTI

Reportage on Foreign Minister Visit to Italy

For Italian media reports on the visit by Djibouti Foreign Minister Bahdon Farah Moumin to Italy, including his talks with Italian Foreign Minister Andreotti, see the Italy & the Vatican section of the 17 October Western Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

ETHIOPIA

Delegation Departs for Berlin CEMA Meeting

EA162245 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Summary] A two-man delegation led by Mersie Ejigu, head of the planning sector of the national revolutionary development campaign, alternate member of the Central Supreme Planning Council, and member of the COPWE Central Committee with the rank of minister, left for Berlin today to attend the 37th regular CEMA meeting as an observer. Mersie will deliver a speech at the meeting on Ethiopia's economic and social development.

Soviet Sports Delegation Arrives in Addis Ababa

EA150300 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Comrade Major General (Kitor Vachinovichko Batkov), pilot cosmonaut [last two words in English], hero of the Soviet Union, and chairman of the friendly nation's armed forces sports committee, arrived in Addis Ababa this morning for a 1-week working visit. Comrade Maj Gen (Batkov) is visiting Ethiopia at the head of a two-man delegation at the invitation of Revolutionary Ethiopia's Ministry of Defense. He disclosed that the aim of his visit is to familiarize himself with the sport and physical fitness activities of Revolutionary Ethiopia's Revolutionary Armed Forces and discuss relations in this line with the relevant officials.

KENYA

Moi Details Plans To Improve Development

EA142342 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today spelt out the challenges facing the government and announced specific measures aimed at improving our development strategy. The president directed ministers and permanent secretaries to develop a system of good planning, sound budgeting, well-managed implementation programs, and proper monitoring and assessment for improvements. He said ministries and parastatal organizations must monitor their performance and submit a report on half-yearly basis pointing out their priorities and problems requiring special attention.

Addressing assistant ministers after being sworn in at State House, Nairobi, President Moi said he was setting up a special committee which, together with the attorney general's office, will supervize the new directive on monitoring reports. The ceremony was witnessed by Cabinet ministers and permanent secretaries. President Moi said he intended to restructure the projects implementation committee to oversee the project planning and negotiations, as well as implementation and evaluation, are followed through on a practical and consistent basis.

On the development of investments by individuals, partnerships, cooperatives and companies, the president said that the government has set up an investment center which will speed up the establishment of new enterprises. The president reiterated that parastatal organizations must work efficiently and that it may be necessary to divest some of the public institutions where it is felt that they could be run better by private sector. The president emphasized that permanent ministries must encourage them to be commercial-minded and that they should not expect to be bailed out if they become grossly inefficient.

On export trade the president said there will be a high-level committee to deal with the reintroduction of a modified export compensation scheme and that the whole economic environment is geared to growth and foreign exchange earnings. President Moi also directed ministers and permanent secretaries to ensure that there is proper control of government expenditures, particularly the use of government vehicles. He said that the government vehicles must be used for official work only and that they should not be used from house to office as the case has been with some ministries. The president said that the current economic situation does not allow for too much comfort in offices and that the use of office accommodation and equipment must be done in the most economic way possible.

The president called on all government appointees to adhere to their letters of appointment and advised them to work as a team for one government. The president assured civil servants who are doing their work with devotion that they will be protected in parliament. He however pointed out that those who will not do their work properly will not be protected either in the house or outside. Forty-one out of the 43 appointed assistant ministers were sworn in today. The two who were not present at the swearing-in ceremony were an assistant minister in the office of the president, Mr Martin Shikuku, and an assistant minister for cooperative development, Peter Ejore. The ceremony was also witnessed by the vice president and minister for home affairs, Mr Mwai Kibaki.

UGANDA

Vice President Receives DPRK Delegation

EA150122 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Vice President Paulo Muwanga has hailed the cordial relationship prevailing between Uganda and the DPRK, which he attributed to the fraternity between the leaders of the two countries. The vice president was receiving a three-man delegation led by the vice president of the Central Committee of the

Association of the Korean Social Scientists and president of the Academy of Chuche idea of Korea, Dr (Choe Mon-ho), who paid a courtesy call on him at his office in Kampala. Mr Muwanga assured the delegation that the brotherly relations existing between the two countries will be cemented further. The vice president expressed gratitude and appreciation for the invaluable assistance the Government of the DPRK has extended to Uganda.

Dr (Choe Mon-ho) briefed the vice president on the role of the Chuche Academy and extended an invitation to the Ugandan academicians to visit the academy and exchange ideas with their counterparts. The meeting was attended by the ambassador of the DPRK in Uganda, Mr Chang Tae-hui.

Official Addresses Displaced Persons in Mubende

EA141554 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Oct 83

[Text] The minister of state in the Office of the Prime Minister, Mr Edward (Rurangaranga), has assured displaced people now living in camps in the disturbed districts of Mubende, Luwero, and Mpigi that the government is determined to resettle them in their former home villages. Addressing displaced people in camps at Mate, [word indistinct], (Bukomero), and other areas in Mubende, Mr (Rurangaranga) told them that the government with the help of international organizations and other peace-loving people of the world is working (?resolutely) to provide them with relief aid and other necessities for resettlement and rehabilitation. The relief aid program is divided into two phases. The first phase covers the provision of essential commodities like food, soap, medicine, and clothing to the displaced people. Phase two involves providing free transport to the displaced people back to their home villages. They will also be provided with hoes so that they can grow food and rehabilitate their banana and coffee plantations. The minister urged them to cooperate with the government by responding positively to its policy.

BURUNDI

Foreign Minister Leaves for Libreville Summit

EA170100 Bujumbura Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Summary] Yesterday afternoon Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Laurent Nzeyimana left for Libreville where he will attend the summit on establishing the Economic Community of Central African States.

CHAD

Habre Leaves for Libreville CEEAC Summit

AB161230 Paris AFP in French 1156 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 16 Oct (AFP) — Chadian President Hissein Habre left Ndjamena on Sunday morning for Libreville (Gabon) where he is to participate in the summit of member-states of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC). During this summit, which is to last 48 hours, the heads of state are scheduled to ratify the agreement on the creation of this regional economic organization. President Hissein Habre is accompanied by Chadian Finance Minister Elie Romba.

Bardai Radio Interviews GUNT Defense Minister

AB132117 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 13 Oct 83

[Interview granted by Acheikh ibn Oumar, Transitional National Union Government minister of national defense, veterans, and war victims, to an unidentified Radio Bardai correspondent — date and place not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] Comrade Minister, how do you describe the military situation in the field? What do you think particularly of the so-called red line drawn up by France?

[Oumar] As everybody knows, after the resounding victory of the Transitional National Union Government of Chad [GUNT], especially at Faya-Largeau, Gouro, and Ounianga, the Hissein Habre regime was in total disarray. But without Zairian and French intervention in Chad, the National Liberation Army [ANL] forces would have by now reached Ndjamena and would have already swept away the Hissein Habre forces. To us, Zairian and French intervention on the side of Ndjamena, which is the most spectacular aspect of this military situation in Chad, has, of course, given a certain amount of resistence to the puppet regime of Hissein Habre. But this cannot hinder permanently the impetus to liberate the people. Concerning French intervention and France's so-called red line, it is necessary to recall the various statements France has made. In the beginning it said it would not intervene in a strictly domestic affair. Then later the higher authorities said they would support Hissein Habre only on a purely material basis, because suddenly they discovered that his was the legal Government of Chad. Then again they sent only instructors who would only fight back if they were attacked or threatened. Therefore, all these verbal (?ill-intentional) gymnatics show that France only ran to help Hissein Habre in order to save his regime and block the way for the courageous soldiers of the ANL.

Now, the latest rhetoric is that France is in Chad as an interposition force, and that is the reason for the red line. Interposition means dealing with two sides, but up to this day, we only see France on the southern side. As far as I know and in my capacity as minister of defense, we have never ratified any accord on a cease-fire or signed any accord with Hissein Habre or France. I, therefore, do not see on what grounds the French Legion can impose a cease-fire, create a red line, and bring a fantastic interpositional body [words indistinct]. I believe all these are ways of throwing dust in our eyes and trying to open an honorable way for Hissein Habre. Of course, to us it does not make any difference. We must still find a political solution and are ready for discussions with Hissein Habre or with whomever the enemy might be, but we still insist that the solution must [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] The ANL is only a few months old, and yet despite its newness it has proven its capability in the field as compared with the factional armies and with the unfortunate experience of the integrated armed forces. What is your definition of the ANL?

[Oumar] It is quite clear that the high morale among ANL soldiers has improved their combat effectiveness and their determination, making them real freedom fighters. But this is not the most important thing. The most important thing is the new national organization within the ANL [words indistinct]. It is quite evident that the military debacle of the GUNT, especially when we were in Ndjamena, was essentially due to the enfeeblement of the armed forces which were an amalgamation of factional groups brought within the National Integration Army [ANI]. This kind of army had a lot of contradictions within it [words indistinct]. We are now satisfied to have a perfect National Liberation Army with a high-level commandand a more homogeneous system of organization, which is already a very important step forward. But still there is a lot to be done: We need arms of quality and we have the problem of the group which has been left outside our zone of influence and our liberated areas [passage indistinct].

[Correspondent] Would you like to make the army a type of people's revolutionary army?

[Oumar] We must install a real people's army; otherwise we are bound to fail. Our struggle is a revolutionary one and the ANL is only a tool, a very important tool for the achievement of this revolutionary transformation. It is obvious that we cannot realize popular and revolutionary objectives with a tool which does not correspond to these qualities. A revolutionary army in the present context presupposes that its personnel, equipment, social composition, and mode of action should reflect its revolutionary goals. The army must also be a national one as far as its organization is concerned. It must be subjected to a national authority. It must also be a national army in the sense that is must not defend the interests of only one group but defend the independence and territorial integrity of Chad. It must be a national army but also a people's army in the sense that the main characteristic of the

classical, neocolonialist armies in Africa is that they live on the efforts of the masses without producing. Our army must be a people's one; that is, the soldier must be productive in addition to his mission of defending the people's interest. It must also be equal to its liberation mission. The army must also be productive. This is most important because we believe that an army should not only consume but also produce in order to play an important (?economic) role in the present context. [Passage indistinct] We must always strive to be equal to our mission.

[Correspondent] The success of the national liberation mission of our revolutionary forces mainly depends on the unity of the army. Comrade Minister, what measures and precautions have been taken to preserve and strengthen this achievement of the Chadian people, which is the ANL?

[Oumar] Obviously, military unity, as you have said, is an important element for the success of our liberation war. But it must be guaranteed by political unity. [Passage indistinct] We must do everything to ensure political unity. Obviously, in the present context, military unity is the most urgent thing since we must first of all ensure our presence in the field. This has been the main subject of our concern. But we must at the same time fight for political unity since military unity is liable to be undermined if we do not have political unity. Although the existence of military unity creates a favorable condition for political unity, it has to be strengthened. I believe that the transformation of a society should first of all begin with the transformation of mentalities. Our task has not yet ended [words indistinct]. This task consists in ensuring that all the ANL soldiers from the extreme north to the extreme south are imbued with the same ideology and the same mentality. Our unity depends on this. As leaders, we have a certain number of duties to accomplish. The speeches we make and the directives we issue to our subordinates constitute important elements for the consolidation of unity. [Passage indistinct]

[Correspondent] Comrade Minister, how do you envisage the problem of training ANL soldiers?

[Oumar] The problem of training our soldiers is an extremely serious one because our forces are from very diverse origins. We have some soldiers who received classical training within the Chadian National Army. [Passage indistinct] We also have soldiers of the Chadian National Liberation Front who are mainly a liberation force. [Passage indistinct]

[Correspondent] Have you had reports on the situation in the areas of ANL activity in the central and southern parts of the country?

[Oumar] We have not received reports but we have very discreet contacts with [words indistinct] in the central and southern parts of the country. [Passage indistinct] I take this opportunity to address our congratulations and encouragement to our courageous comrades who are carrying high the torch of the liberation struggle in these areas.

[Correspondent] Comrade Minister, you are one of the main personalities of the GUNT. These days, the Western press, and in particular the French press, ... e counting on you as a means of easing and ending the national crisis. What do you think of such speculations?

[Oumar] The French press and the West in general have always regarded the crisis prevailing in Africa and the Third World in general as resulting from a struggle between leaders or between personalities. In this (?unique) philosophy, people believe that African people are not mature enough [words indistinct]. It is through this point of view that one must understand the present insistence of the French press on seeking a third man or the miracle man, et cetera. As we were also told elsewhere, on the level of the individual to cling to someone like Bokassa or what have you until the last minute, believing that [words indistinct]. In the precise context of Chad, there is an obvious desire to create contradictions within the government coalition when one realizes that on the military level it is difficult to (?stop) our progress. [Passage indistinct] perhaps to lead a faction of the GUNT against the GUNT. [Words indistinct], therefore, we hope, and I repeat, we are not closing the door to the search for a (?peaceful) solution. All these combinations (?please them). The combinations over the red line and others are only a means of diverting the people, and they are very far from being the fundamental concerns of the Chadian people.

[Correspondent] According to incessant reports reaching us, fighters [words indistinct] of countries sharing borders with ours. Has the GUNT undertaken moves toward their eventual recovery?

[Oumar] This is not a new phenomenum. We have known for several months now that the major part of the FAN forces has been destroyed, or let us say severely hit. In order to make up for the losses, the reactionary forces led by Hissein Habre are trying to pick up poor citizens who are drafted into the Army by force and after a very brief training, they are sent as canon fodder to the war zones. When one knows this situation, it is, therefore, not at all evident [words indistinct] of fighters, if not only to preserve their civic integrity [words indistinct] we have always said it, we have always repeated it, we have always practiced it, because in reality the FAN fighters are first of all Chadian citizens. [Passage indistinct] On this basis, we have always made appeals to our brothers who were drafted by force or by tricks by the men of Hissein Habre and transformed into cannon fodder. We have always made appeals to them [word indistinct] of the FAN, to rejoin the forces of the government coalition of the GUNT. This is to say once again, that we are doing our best so these brothers who desert the ranks of the FAN can benefit from the peace and understanding and the necessary support on the part of the GUNT.

[Correspondent] At a time when Amnesty International denounces the atrocities committed in the camp of the National Annihilation Forces, can we know the situation now prevailing in the various provinces?

[Oumar] I believe that the international press — which on several occasions has had the opportunity to visit the field — has seen the extremely human and constructive treatment we have always given to war prisoners. This is no secret for anyone: The number of these prisoners is approaching 3,000 after successive battles.

Concerning their food and accommodation, these prisoners are treated in the same manner that our fighters are. And if it were not for material difficulties of regrouping them, organizing them, and so on, we would have already carried out the reintegration of a great majority of them. It is a task we have in mind, and we [word indistinct] for us to try within the limit of our means — our modest means — to try to regroup them, to screen them, and to carry out theirreeducation in order to use them in a positive manner. [Passage indistinct] This links up with what I said above, which is that we consider these brothers as being an integral part of the Chadian people on whose behalf we are fighting anyway.

[Correspondent] Comrade Minister, this liberation war has given us the opportunity to notice that U.S. imperialism is relentless in its support for the FAN. It did everything to assist it, to the point of using very sophisticated equipment like AWACS planes and satellites. What do you think of this imperialist intervention in what is first of all a civil war purely internal to Chad?

[Oumar] We know it. The entire national and international opinion knows it. The fight we are waging against the reactionary forces of the FAN led by Hissein Habre is actually a liberation fight led against international imperialism, and in particular against U.S. imperialism. The present international development shows that the United States wants to dictate entire world policy and to submit all the peoples of the world to its diktat. It considers all desires of liberation and independence as a direct threat to the vital interests of America and by so doing, it has aroused massive reactions in countries like Chile, [words indistinct] in Asia, in Nicaragua, and presently it is the martyrs of Palestine and of Namibia who are paying dearly for it. Concerning Chad, we know that behind Hissein Habre's forces, America has mobilized a whole arsenal which is extremely sophisticated. First of all, on the level of observation, there is the AWACS based in Khartoum. Earlier, there was an AWACS in Egypt and its mission was to fly and watch over the joint zones between Egypt, Chad, Sudan, and Libya. There was also, evidently, the famous satellite which regularly (?informs) French forces and those of Hissein Habre and so on [words indistinct]. These satellites also have the mission of jamming radio transmissions, that is, those of Radio Bardai or those of the communications of the ANL. We know this, we have evidence. We also know that U.S. forces are beingforced to become involved in the Chadian war. Each time [words indistinct] in the Gulf of Sidra against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. [Passage indistinct] American technicians are by the side of Hissein Habre and assist him in areas of transmissions, monitoring of telephone communications, [words indistinct], and the handling of the various sophisticated equipment which has been delivered to him and which continue to be delivered to him. [Passage indistinct]

Viewing it from this angle, we are extremely proud to consider ourselves somewhat the vanguard of the war of liberation of the people of the world against U.S. imperialism, and it is a very great honor for us to see ourselves as an obstacle to its interests. Having said this, it is evident that this sophisticated equipment and this demonstration of strength cannot stop our combat effectiveness. Everyone knows that it is extremely easy to thwart this observation equipment and even to lead it to errors through some (?tricks) in the field. Our Polisario friends as well as our comrades of [word indistinct] know this because they experienced it. To this end, I will recall [words indistinct] an American computer was asked to [words indistinct] on both sides — Viet Cong and American — through the memory of the computer and by asking it the question as to [words indistinct]. It answered that the war [words indistinct]. It was seen that scientific, technical calculations, and others no matter their thoroughness can (?hinder) the determination of a people who are bent on living in (?freedom).

[Correspondent] I thank you, Comrade Minister.

UND Leader Says Rebels Control South, Center

AB141440 Paris AFP in French 1239 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Cotonou, 14 Oct (AFP) — The forces that have rebelled against Chadian President Hissein Habre control "all the area in the central and southern parts of the country," stated in Cotonou on Wednesday Dr Fatcho Balam, leader of 1 of the 11 Chadian factions, the National Democratic Union [UND], whose supporters are from this region. According to Dr Balam, who is also a former minister of Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], the situation in southern Chad, where government troops "control only the towns," is "rotten" for President Habre's troops.

In an interview with AFP, the UND leader estimated the number of GUNT soldiers in the central, east, and southern regions at 5,000. The UND force which was until last April a political movement, has about 600 soldiers operating mainly in the area between Bongor (200 km south of Ndjamena) and Mondou (400 km south of Ndjamena), Dr Balam said.

The UND forces occupied for the second time in September the town of Gounou-Gaya, near the Cameroon border, and have joined forces in the central region with members of the First Army of Mahamat Abba Said and with those of the central-east (Salamat region) of the Revolutionary Democratic Council of Acheick ibn Oumar, the GUNT minister of defense. Mr Balam said the Libyans have refused to "paradrop equipment to them, feeling that their planes will be in danger."

Finally, concerning the French presence in Chad, Mr Balam felt that these troops have "complicated the problems." "A socialist government which becomes neocolonialist is inadmissible," he added. "The French forces have not been attacked and will not be attacked. We are not fighting the French," the UND leader stressed, adding that "a solution to the Chadian crisis has to be found through negotiations." "Let us negotiate to set up a transitional body, but the negotiations should not take place under the wing of Hissein Habre," he concluded.

GABON

Bongo Returns From PRC, Franco-African Summit

AB132200 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 13 Oct 83

[Excerpt] President of the Republic El-Hadj Omar Bongo and the delegation which accompanied him returned to Libreville this afternoon from Hong Kong via Jidda. The head of state paid a

strictly private visit [words indistinct] and a 4-day official visit to the People's Republic of China. The delegation went to China after participating in the deliberations of the Franco-African heads of state summit.

Also at the Leon Mba International Airport this afternoon, President Omar Bongo was welcomed by the prime minister and head of government, Mr Leon Mebiame. After listening to the national anthem, President Bongo inspected the guard of honor mounted by troops at the Leon Mba Airport. At the VIP lounge, the father of the renovation first shook hands with members of the government, the Political Bureau, heads of constituted bodies, and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to our country.

Makes Statement on Arrival

AB141855 Dakar PANA in French 1335 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Libreville, 14 Oct (AGP-PANA) — Gabonese President Omar Bongo returned to Libreville Thursday afternoon at the end of a 14-day trip which took him successively to Vittel (southeast France) and the PRC.

In a statement to Gabonese reporters on his arrival, President Bongo first of all expressed happiness about the "calm which has prevailed" in Gabon during his absence. Stressing that the conference of heads of state of Africa and France did not have any specific agenda, the head of state recalled that the meetings on 3 and 4 October took place "in a rather informal way."

On the problem of Chad, President Bongo indicated that his country is known for its "total readiness for everything that goes into settling that issue." "But Gabon cannot pretend to take any initiative of its own since the Chadian conflict was first of all the internal problem of that country," he added.

It will be recalled that the conflict between the legal government of Hissein Habre and Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government of Chad [GUNT] was the major topic of discussion at the Franco-African summit of Vittel. The statement published at the end of the meeting stressed the priority objectives of "restoring peace and safeguarding the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and unity of Chad."

Answering a question on cooperation between Gabon and France, Mr Bongo said "it was quite good," and that the visit of Christian Nucci, French minister of cooperation and development, to Gabon will afford an opportunity to strengthen it. The president of Gabon did not think it proper to tell the public the results of his talks with Chinese authorities because he wants to brief his Cabinet first on those results.

Omar Bongo, however, indicated that his meeting with Chinese leaders was very fruitful. The Gabonese head of state, who has paid "a friendly and working visit" to the People's Republic of China five times in 9 years, recalled that Gabon obtained a loan of 7 billion CFA francs in 1974 "without interest" and also benefits from technical assistance from China, especially in the field of health.

RWANDA

President Returns From Western European Trip

EA170044 Kigali Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Summary] Yesterday afternoon President Habyarimana returned to Kigali from Bonn, West Germany. After attending the 10th French-African summit at Vittel, France the Rwandan president proceeded to Berne, Switzerland for a 3-day working visit. "In the Swiss capital, President Juvenal Habyarimana held fruitful talks with Swiss authorities, particularly with the Swiss confederal president. Regarding bilateral relations, the Swiss officials said they would continue financing projects undertaken, while new projects presented by Rwandan officials will be finalized during the next joint Swiss-Rwandan commission to be held before the end of the year."

At the end of his visit to Switzerland, President Habyarimana went to West Germany, where he held talks with West German authorities. "He specifically held talks with the minister president of Baden-Wurttemberg. The two men affirmed their willingness to begin developing relations of cooperation between Baden-Wurttemberg and our country."

GAMBIA

Jawara Relative Resigns Ministerial Post

AB160755 Paris AFP in English 0732 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Banjul, Oct 16 (AFP) — Lands and Local Government Minister Keba Jawara, a nephew of President Dawda Jawara, resigned Saturday for undisclosed "health reasons." He had held the post since May last year, when he replaced Momodu Lamin Saho, who had quit after President Jawara had failed to appoint him vice-president.

GHANA

Asamoah Announces Donor Meeting in Paris

AB160645 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] A donors conference of Ghana is to be held in Paris next month. The meeting will discuss the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] medium-term plan to boost the industrial and agricultural sectors of the economy. This was announced by the secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, at a reception held in his honor in New York. The reception was organized by the Solidarity Committee for the Independence and Sovereignty of Ghana, which is dedicated to the objectives of the 31 December Revolution. Dr Asamoah, who is leading Ghana's delegation to the 38th session of the UN General Assembly, also said a new investment code is being prepared to encourage foreign investments in the economy. He commended Libya and Cuba for their aid to Ghana.

IVORY COAST

Houphouet Statement on Return to Abidjan

AB141910 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Statement by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny in Abidjan on 14 October 1983 upon his return from visits to United States, Canada, Great Britain, and France — live]

[Text] My dear compatriots, as I touch — with a manifest joy — the soil of our country after such a long absence, my first words will be to express to you my most fraternal greetings for being able to preserve the peaceful climate in our country while I was away from you. You have certainly felt how my mind was always on you, permanently focused on the search for the interest and the welfare of Ivorians. As you have said, I have just paid official visits to the United States, Canada, and Great Britain, and after spending a few days in Switzerland, I had a long stay in France. These official visits which we have just made enabled us to note that all our interlocutors, at all levels, have soundly appreciated the progress achieved in Ivory Coast, and especially the recovery effort undertaken courageously by Ivory Coast. They did not fail to demonstrate their real desire to help us. Naturally, we should seek to deserve this aid by settling down in earnest to the task expected from us by this country, which believes in its future.

As I said, during my stay in France I had the opportunity to make many important contacts. So, from these visits made abroad, we can say one thing. We are able to obtain, globally, positive results. What do I mean? I mean interesting and useful results, not only for Ivory Coast, but for the entire African Continent. Having drawn conclusionsfrom what we were able to see, to know, to touch, and to hear abroad; having had time to reflect on our errors and our shortcomings; having been constantly informed of the life of our countrymen, of their aspirations, and of their wishes, we are proposing, in the next few days, following a national council meeting which will be open, to make decisions which will be solely inspired by the supreme interests of Ivory Coast. Upon my return to Ivory Coast, finally, I would like to renew my most ardent thanks to the American President and people, the Canadian prime minister and people, the British prime minister and people, and the French president and people, for their warm welcome, for the friendly attention they gave to all our views, and for the delicate and unforgettable attention that was accorded us during our stay in their great and beautiful countries. My brothers, please excuse me, this day is not for long speeches. It is for me the demonstration of my joy, my very deep joy, to see you again, after an absence of 5 months exactly. Long live Ivory Coast.

LIBERIA

PRC Reshuffles Cabinet; Kollie Named Deputy Head

AB170750 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] For the first time since the arrest and subsequent execution of former vice head of state General Thomas Wey Syen, the People's Redemption Council [PRC] has effected a major reshuffle within its ranks. The move followed the 4-hour meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council held in Monrovia yesterday. A press release issued by the Executive Mansion yesterday said a new position of deputy vice head of state has been created, and Brigadier General Abraham B. Kollie has been appointed by the head of state Commander in Chief Samuel Doe to head that post. Brigadier General Thomas Quiwonkpa becomes the new secretary general of the PRC replacing Gen Kollie.

CIC said he was appointing Gen Quiwonkpa to this position to deal strictly with discipline in the council and to assist in the implementation of policies and programs of the government. Dr Doe said he feels certain that with Gen Quiwonkpa moving to the capital and working in close coordination with the vice head of state, the deputy vice head of state, and the speaker, the council will be more equipped to help government achieve its goals on national development.

Meanwhile, the head of state appointed Colonel Morris T. Zoza, deputy commanding general, as the new commanding general of the Armed Forces in Liberia. Col Zaza has accordingly been promoted to the rank of brigadier general. Making this appointment, the head of state told the new commanding general that he hopes strict discipline will continue to be emphasized in the Armed Forces of Liberia aimed at the protection of life and property of the Liberian people and those living within the territorial confines of Liberia will be his priority concern. Dr Doe

has also appointed Colonel Mackenshaw, a senior commandant, as the new deputy commanding general of the Armed Forces of Liberia.

NIGER

Kountche Addresses Nation on Coup Attempt

AB140950 Niamey Le Sahel in French 10 Oct 83 pp 2,3

[Address to the nation by President Seyni Kountche on 7 October following the failed coup attempt on 6 October in Niamey]

[Text] In accordance with our habit of not concealing anything from the people of Niger, and with a view to avoiding any speculations or incorrect interpretations of the events that took place during part of the night of 5 and morning of 6 October, I have decided, following the statement by the prime minister, to personally inform the people of the real facts. What is this all about? The world, since its creation and for as long as it remains in existence, has known and always will know treason. When you want to hurt someone, most of the time you attack where he expects it the least. As I said on my return from Paris, it was impossible to foresee that such events would take place. Hypo theses are sometimes hypotheses that are not transformed into reality.

At 0200 on the morning of 6 October, a group of Niger nationals, including some officers, of course, attempted to do "something." The scenario was the same. It was aimed at making the Army believe that one of its units had prepared something or wanted to do "something." We saw this scenario during the 1976 coup attempt. Let us get down to the facts. Obviously it is preferable that this be done in a precise manner. My main aim is to give the Niger people maximum information.

While we were in Paris, at around 2100 on 5 October, the commander of the Niamey battalion, Major Seydou Amadou, gave the deputy chief of defense staff, Major Toumba, the impression that a section of the State Police Force wanted to attempt a coup. The deputy chief of staff reacted promptly. He automatically gave the necessary orders to all the units in the Niamey garrison. But before the meeting between Maj Seydou and the deputy chief of defense staff, the latter took steps to neutralize the chief of defense staff of the Niger Armed Forces, FAN, and commander of the Republican Guard, Captain Moussa Hassane; the commander of the State Police Force, Major Youssoufa Maiga, and his deputy, Salifou Tanko; and Moussa Djermakoye, head of the Tondibia training center, by leading them into a trap.

Who were the instigators? They were Amadou Oumarou alias Bonkano; Maj Seydou Amadou, who was the major of Niamey and the commander of the presidential guard in charge of ensuring my security; and Lieutenant Idrissa. And as one had to give the impression that it was the State Police Force that wanted to act, it was necessary to simulate that act and find an officer of the State Police Force who would take command of a certain number or elements. That was Lieutenant Sidikou. As of 0200 one had to make the elements of the presidential guard in charge of my security believe that an attempt was going to be made and that all entrances were to be barred to anyone. As the presidential guard has armored cars — with the complicity of some of them of course — one armored car was to be placed at the post office traffic circle to prevent elements of the Army from advancing toward the presidency,and I believe another car was placed by the State Police Force and yet another near my house. The exchange of shots that were heard were from a clash between those who wanted to attempt the coup and the Army.

Maj Seydou Amadou attempted in vain to rally the other remaining units — the paratroopers and the Niamey squadron — behind him, but he failed because of the promptness with which the unit commanders analyzed the situation and because they obeyed their orders. Gradually, as the deputy chief of defense staff became aware of the reality of the situation, he ordered the commander of the paratroopers to arrest Maj Seydou Amadou and he was one of the first to be arrested.

Between 0030 and 0100 they got an official of the posts and telecommunications, a certain Malicki, to cut all international lines in a way that I cannot understand. On the 5th, in the evening at about 2030, I got into contact with the prime minister: Everything was quiet. Nothing to report. I got in touch with the chief of staff about 2000. Everything was fine, so I went to bed. I was awakened later by my aide de camp, who told me Squadron Leader Captain Barre wanted to speak to me. I got him on the phone and he told me this: It seemed Lt Idrissa, who commands the Presidential Guard, had arrested Capt Moussa Hassane, commander of the Republican Guard. I told him that I would see what to do. It was after this that I asked my aide de camp: "What time is it?" He told me it was past midnight. Back in my room, it was the natural thing to do, I dialled 19-227 and the number I wanted.

I tried to phone the residence of the chief of staff but there was no reply, which proves that the international lines were cut between 0030 and 0100. The prime minister did not remain inactive. He tried to get in touch with those concerned. And it was toward morning that he got the deputy chief of staff, who also made efforts to get in touch with him to inform him about the situation. Soon after, the situation was brought under control and Amadou Oumarou, Captain Hama Boukar, and Lt Idrissa, commander of the Presidential Guard, managed to escape.

Yesterday morning, shortly before my departure at 0730, I asked my aide de camp to book a call to my residence, the prime minister, and the chief of staff. No one replied and we left. It was a few minutes before landing in Algiers that we were warned that we could not fly in Niger's airspace because there was something happening in Niamey. My doubts after my aide de camp had told me there was no communication were true. After landing in Algiers, I had my first information from the French ambassador to Algiers and our ambassador to Paris, and my reaction was to get in direct contact with the prime minister who recounted the events, and the deputy chief of staff who did the same. Whether Niamey was occupied or not, I had decided to go home, more so when the deputy chief of staff and the prime minister told me that the situation was back to normal.

This is an outline of the events. And the result of the action in losses and damages? Contrary to the rumors, only one unfortu-

nate civilian who was riding a motocycle died when he did not respond to the calls of those who were near the squadron camp known by all as "sixth." It's a pity! Four soldiers were wounded, one by accident and the others by gun shots. This was the outcome, if we can call it outcome, since there were was no fighting between those who made the attempt and the Army.

I can draw three lessons:

First: From 1974 to this day, in spite of all that has been said about the Armed Forces of Niger, I made every effort to inculcate in them a sense of patriotism, loyalty, and faithfulness,not to me, but to the people and the nation. Right after his appointment, I told the deputy chief of staff that he will one day have to assume his responsibilities as deputy chief of staff. He did it well and I was very happy this morning after a meeting with officers of the Niamey garrison, when the officers themselves pointed this out, because all the officers, even those with higher ranks than him, obeyed his orders instantly when he assumed his duties as deputy chief of staff. The faithfulness and loyalty of the Armed Forces of Niger which I called for in my addresses to the nation were not in vain.

Second: It is the covetous nature of this affair. Between Algiers and Niamey when I was given the names of those involved, I could not find anyone capable of assuming the highest interests of the nation. But this is just the beginning of the investigation. And if there are other things the investigation will reveal them. But I assert and maintain even before I touched the ground in Niger that none of them could assume national responsibilities.

Because of this greediness, I am sorry that they were not able to count on the reaction of the officers and units of Niamey and more so the units of the interior. Which means that even if they had succeeded in overpowering the soldiers in Niamey, it did not mean that those in the interior could not come here in the ensuing hours.

—Third: I said at the beginning of my speech that betrayal is part of our everyday life. I am a human being who, thanks to the Armed Forces of Niger, assumes national responsibilities in their name. My personal behavior which is based on the honesty in my life can appear to be guilelessness. Doubtlessly I have always had full and total confidence. It might be this honesty which brings out the guilelessness, the excess sincerity which has always ended in events that we have witnessed.

In conclusion: I was surprised by the reaction of the people of Niamey when they heard of the events, when I was going to my residence from the airport. This shows that once again the people are not attached to an individual but they are attached to a principle which is dear to them: maintaining the relative peace that we have been able to restore. And when I say we, I include the National Armed Forces whether they are from the Niamey garrison or the interior.

Second point of the conclusion: A certain number of soldiers, even if they were few, were overpowered. As usual we found a draft declaration. The ruling body which was to have been formed was called the Council for the Defense of the People of Niger. The declaration and the three communiques were drafted by the one who, up till the afternoon of 5 October, was the permanent undersecretary of the prime minister.

What would I like to ask of the people of Niger from this very moment, to the time the investigation ends? I will ask each and every one of you to remain vigilant. You should be vigilant until we are able to know the underlying truth of this affair, in order to know if it was a localized operation or if it had other links. Because I am faithful to the people of Niger, faithful to the Niger Army, on the Tuesday preceding my departure for Paris I revealed to the officers that we had learned from European circles that something could happen in Niger, with external links, involving some Nigerois who live abroad. I informed the prime minister and the chief of staff, before my departure. Is this the result? I do not know.

Before I end, I would like to congratulate, because he was in a very difficult situation, the deputy chief of staff for his action, as well as all officers, noncommissioned officers,and soldiers who obeyed his orders and who remained faithful to their people, the attitude that has always characterized the people of Niger, not only those who live in Niamey. I congratulate all of you.

We all, at my level and that of the Army, should draw lessons from this. We should be sure of one thing, from 1974 until the time the Armed Forces of Niger decide otherwise, I will not relent in my actions. I will be firm in all my actions. Like the armed forces, we have placed Niger and the Niger nation at the summit of our preoccupations. Like the armed forces, I will never betray the people of Niger, especially in this period of economic difficulties. All that I say, I would like each Nigerois to hear it, interpret, and see it as cleared of any political trait, by saying that it is the politician that has spoken,but the Nigerois who had addressed himself to his fellow citizens.

Warns Against Destabilization

AB142025 Paris AFP in French 1702 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Niamey, 14 October (AFP) — General Seyni Kountche, Niger head of state, called on his fellow citizens on Friday to "remain extremely vigilant in order to counterattack any internal or external act of destabilization of the country," the national radio said. Gen Kountche said this during a "cadres conference" attended by officers of the Armed Forces, heads of ministries and departments, and representatives of socioprofessional bodies in the capital. According to the radio, he said that the inquiry into the coup attempt that was foiled on the night of 5 and morning of 6 October was "almost over." "Only a few elements need to be clarified," President Kountche said, then "the nation will be informed" of the outcome of the inquiry.

President Kountche, who repeated that "everyone was surprised by this coup attempt" fomented by officers in his entourage and civilians, added that one was still puzzled about the motives for this act: "Was it an act of personal ambition or something else?" he wondered, considering that the thorough inquiry currently taking place would make it possible to get an exact idea on the matter. Also, Gen Kountche warned the people of Niger to beware of "false rumors" which are "intoxicating," and he warned them against "arbitrary and revengeful denunciations,"

stressing that the people of Niger must above all concern themselves this season with the harvest and economic problems Niger is facing. President Kountche considered that "far from weakening Niger," the failure of this coup d'etat has made it possible to "strengthen national unity and the commitment of the people of Niger to the building, through thick and thin, of a united and indivisible country."

In addition, President Kountche said, according to informed sources, the main protagonists in this coup attempt are still on the run, especially Amadou Oumarou, alias "Bonkano," his former special security advisor who is alleged to be in France. According to these sources, Niger has undertaken procedures aimed at the seizure in France of "Bonkano's" possessions.

SENEGAL

LE SOLEIL on Diouf's Visit to Algeria

AB150700 Paris AFP in French 0718 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Dakar, 14 Oct (AFP) — The Dakar pro-government daily, *Le Soleil, sees the visit that President Abdou Diouf of Senegal* is making to Algeria as of Friday "as a major political event." According to the paper, this visit could have repercussions on the region, on Africa, and also on the "practically nonexistent" cooperation between Algeria and Senegal.

In an editorial, the director general of *Le Soleil*, Bara Diouf, pointed out that "for about 20 years, relations between Dakar and Algiers have been serrated." He attributes this "coldness in the relations that has been maintained for so long more to difference in style and less to the unshakeable differences in choice of policy and its implementation." He added that "the charisma and infallibility of the historic heads" of Algeria and Senegal, that is Presidents Boumedienne and Senghor, "did not facilitate rapprochement."

According to the director general of *Le Soleil*, President Abdou Diouf's visit, "that of an African leader considered to be moderate and that of an African leader considered to be revolutionary because of his dialectically positive character, should lead to a reconciliation and friendship from which the continent and our subregion would benefit greatly." Also, in a series of articles, the Dakar daily stressed that "the situation in Africa and the search for peace in Western Sahara give President Diouf's visit to Algeria an exceptional quality."

According to the paper, this visit marks "the end of an era of misunderstandings between two countries whose cooperation has been frozen for many long years and which until now have only had relations that are on the whole distant." On this cooperation, *Le Soleil reveals that Algeria and Senegal "have not yet succeeded* in exploiting all possibilities" and "exchanges between Algiers and Dakar have neither the value nor the volume or importance they should have." "The institutional infrastructure exists .... All that remains," the daily concludes, "is the administrative go-ahead which may be given during President Diouf's visit to Algiers."

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara Charges Arms Being Smuggled Into Country

AB161405 Paris AFP in English 1309 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Ouagadougou, Oct 16 (AFP) — Agents of "imperialism" and "fascism" disguised as tourists have been smuggling arms into Upper Volta to overthrow the country's infant revolution, President Thomas Sankara told a public meeting yesterday. Speaking at Fada Ngourma, 195 kilometres (120 miles) east of here, Captain Sankara, who seized power on August 4, called for public vigilance against "reactionary" plots currently in preparation against his regime. Imperialism was mobilising its financial, military, and diplomatic strength against the Upper Voltan revolution, Captain Sankara said. He urged the revolutionary defence committees in border towns to watch all those who arrived as tourists to discover if they were bringing in arms. Weapons had already been smuggled in to assassinate the leaders of the revolution, and now the "executioners" themselves were arriving one by one, Captain Sankara said. He alleged that imperialism, through its local lackeys, was trying by economic sabotage to push Upper Voltan leaders into actions which would give an impression of repression and fascism, as had happened at the beginning of the Ghanaian Revolution in 1981.

He therefore urged the defence committees to watch the activities of state-approved traders, to see that they did not try to create artificial shortages. Captain Sankara called for public effort and sacrifice, adding that local inhabitants should not bring their problems to the government but try to solve them themselves, and help to build the country, he said. "He who does not take part in this work is an enemy of the people who does not deserve his place in Upper Volta," Captain Sankara warned. He told every village to draw up its own local projects, and said the government would concern itself with finding the necessary aid. Foreign aid would be accepted provided it was in harmony with the principles of dignity, freedom, honour, and non-interference in the country's internal affairs. Captain Sankara added that in future the choice of administrators would be made in accordance to their political value and competence, and their revolutionary commitment, and not on their university qualifications. He denied that Upper Volta wanted to export its revolution, but added, "if the reasons and causes which gave birth to the revolution arose in any other country, with or without the desire of Upper Volta, there would be a similar revolution there." In such cases it would be futile to blame Upper Volta. What was needed was to face up to local contradictions, Captain Sankara said.

Sankara Says Nightclubs 'Must Be Closed'

AB170905 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 17 Oct 83

["Unscheduled address" by Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution, at a concert held by the Association of Ouagadougou Musicians at Revolution Square in Ouagadougou on 16 October 1983 — recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrades, there is something new in Ouagadougou and that is revolution in music, and I have come to give the

militant support and greetings of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] to all those who decided to introduce revolution in music. We must condemn antipopular music, we must condemn reactionary music, we must condemns bourgeois music. When we say "down with imperialism," this must be felt in all fields, including music. In the policy statement, we called upon the musicians also to serve the revolution. Beginning today, Upper Voltan music must be revolutionary. Beginning today, Upper Voltan musicians will have priority of air on Upper Voltan radio and television networks. Beginning today, this revolutionary music must be that of everyday. Those who do not want to listen to this revolutionary music (?can) listen to any other brand of music.

I am telling you that beginning today, all the nightclubs must be closed down in Upper Volta. I am making this solemn decision before you the people (?to close) nightclubs throughout the country. [shouts] In their place, you will organize popular dances. The rogues and the bourgeois preferred nightclubs. What are nightclubs? They are privileged places where the bourgeois had the opportunity to expose their riches by [words indistinct], by charging exorbitant entrance fees, in order to gather themselves in small groups to commit the vices of bourgeois. In their places, you will have popular music and dance in which there will be no inequality and where you will meet as comrades, where dancing will be a revolutionary one, with a revolutionary music. Comrades, music is revolutionary.

We know that our musicians find it difficult to print their songs on records or cassettes. Here, too, the revolution is taking care of their grievances and the revolution will be able to find them the means to make them print their songs on quality records. [applause] In our towns, popular bands will be set up. Musical contests will regularly be organized, as is done in some countries yearly. These contests will enable each band to demonstrate its talent and cultural energies, and show that thanks to the revolution, every young Upper Voltan is now conscious of all its enemies. Soon, in Ouagadougou, all the bands of Upper Volta will gather here to perform under revolutionary themes. We shall now sing about the revolution and the anti-imperialist struggle. This evening again, I am therefore inviting you to a piece of music to celebrate the revolution. Thank you, comrades.

Foreign Affairs Minister Addresses UN Assembly

AB142122 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Address by Foreign Affairs Minister Arba Diallo to 38th session of the UN General Assembly in New York; date not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] Mr President, first of all, permit me to congratulate Mr Illueca, the vice president of Panama, on his election as the president of this 38th session of the General Assembly. Panama, his country, belongs to a part of the world which suffers with my continent from the strokes and the counterstrokes of the disastrous policies conceived somewhere else [Words indistinct] which bind us together, I therefore hope that Panama and Upper Volta will work to reestablish a more just and equitable international relations for the benefit of peace among the peoples of the world.

Mr President, this session of the General Assembly is taking place at a time when the world is being tormented. Although the world has always been tormented, it has never before had so many conditions for instability. The tragedy of the South Korean aircraft is an example which demonstrates the absurd, criminal, and extreme nature of the rivalry between the two superpowers.

For 38 years, principles and objectives have been defined in conformity with the desire of peoples to live in peace and justice and to develop in harmony. An examination of the international situation makes one think that the United Nations' profession of faith for the past 38 years has become a dream that cannot be realized. The desire of people here and there to dominate has held back the development of the world as prescribed in the Charter — faith in fundamental human rights, faith in dignity and the value of humanity, and equal rights for men and women as well as for small and big nations. Mr President, it is this faith that has inspired the 4 August 1983 change in Upper Volta. It is because we had faith in humanity, because we wanted to reclaim dignity and respect, and because under the weight of external contradictions hope and trust in our country had been assassinated, that we resolutely took the path defined by the National Council of the Revolution. [CNR]

As a sovereign state which is deeply rooted in the ideals of nonalignment, Upper Volta affirms the right of its people to freely determine without any outside pressure their own path to progress. Upper Volta affirms its right to freely choose its friends all over the world on the basis of their concrete desire to satisfy the profound and legitimate aspirations of their peoples. The Upper Voltan revolution is not directed against any country, state, or people. On the national level, this signifies the affirmation of our identity and the reestablishment of our dignity; and on the international level, the search of other peoples and their sincere willingness and a true cooperation for a more just world. Our view of the world is based on the above-mentioned principles and our efforts are to identify and denounce everything that can hinder the progress of mankind. In this world which is being preyed upon by several upheavals, the constant search for peace remains the main preoccupation of our organization, because without peace, none of our objectives can be attained. In this regard, we must remark that this year once again, South Africa has paid its tribute of horror and injustice. With the support and complicity of Western countries and multinational companies, racist Pretoria does not cease to deal atrocities to our South African brothers and the whole region. By assassinating ANC patriots, South Africa once again reaffirms in a bloody way its refusal to listen to and satisfy the just and legitimate demands of a people tortured, ridiculed, and humiliated simply because of the color of their skin — the color of the skin from which the term apartheid, the most ignoble system of economic exploitation of our time, has been established because apart from [words indistinct] racism, apartheid is the monstrous product of imperialism and capitalism in their ceaseless and immoral search [words indistinct]. The blacks of South Africa and all those who are similar to them in color were sacrificed.

Not satisfied about this infamous act, racist Pretoria and its accomplices add Namibia to their sinister hunting table — Namibia which has been fighting under the leadership of its sole and legitimate representative, SWAPO, Namibia, which has

been fighting for its independence, liberty, and dignity; Namibia, which has been fighting to make its contribution to justice and peace to the world; Namibia, which the United Nations, with the active help of the top-ranking officials and the permanent members of the Security Council, could have helped to achieve total independence within the framework of Resolution 435 of 1978.

This equivocal work and the lack of results from the Contact Group can be explained by the disrespect for the provisions of Resolution 435 and also by the paternalistic behavior of its members. In fact, the question of linking the Namibian independence issue with the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola should not arise at all. The presence of the Cuban troops in Angola is the sovereign decision of a sovereign state which has to face the acts of destabilization by South Africa on its territory and in the neighboring countries. On the other hand, South Africa's presence in Namibia is illegal and is unanimously condemned by the international community. We reaffirm that the state that persists in establishing a link between these two issues must know that South Africa is violating fundamental human rights and the principles of international law, and these states are themselves refusing to apply the sanctions envisaged in the Charter.

Here is the reason for this iniquity: Those who operate the apartheid system draw their strength from a military, economic, and political strategy, whose major aim is to break up the struggle of our South African brothers, to prevent Namibia from achieving real independence, and to sow terror and desolation in all the frontline states in order to prevent them from contributing to the liberation struggle of their South African and Namibian brothers.

This total refusal under such circumstances has led Upper Volta to adopt, as the cornerstone of its foreign policy, an anti-imperialist struggle. Our anti-imperialism is the firm determination of our people to shape their own destiny despite the immense weight of the gigantic, tentacular, and the implacable, either visible or invisible, ramifications of imperialism. Imperialism prevents the person who wants to do everything possible to help his neighbor get out of the clutches of the one who has alienated him. We neither want to alienate ourselves nor get destroyed. We want to live free, we want to live in dignity, we want to satisfy our needs, and above all, we are asking for fraternal and peaceful cooperation. For this reason, we extend our hands to all peoples fighting for the survival of mankind, and for a situation in which there will be no more alienation or annihilation. Annihilation is what is going on in Chad where blood has been spilling for more than a decade; foreign arms are killing; our Chadian brothers are dying.

For these reasons, the CNR strongly condemns the restoration of neocolonial politics and the internationalization of the Chadian conflict. It also denounces colonial expeditions organized to destroy the legitimate and just aspiration of the Chadian people. Upper Volta will not tolerate the imperialist and hegemonistic military interventions in the internal affairs of a sovereign state. It believes that every effort should be made under the auspices of the OAU to demand the unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces from Chad; to oppose all imperialist and neocolonialist enemies of Africa who envisage or favor foreign interventions in Chad to regain its national unity, its territorial integrity, its international sovereignty; and to do everything to unite all able-bodied Chadians for national reconstruction and economic and social development.

The destiny of a people — and this is our firm conviction — should be determined only by its people. In this regard, we call for the implementation and the rapid holding of the referendum for self-determination in Western Sahara, in accordance with the resolution of the 19th OAU summit, so that the Saharan people can determine their lot in order for peace to return to that region. We deplore the lack of concrete results which is due to Morocco's refusal to negotiate directly with the Polisario. Morocco is therefore responsible for the failure of a meeting of the Implementation Committee set up by the 19th OAU summit. We have taken note of the solemn declaration made before our assembly on 27 September 1983 by His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. Upper Volta, on its part, immediately calls on all parties concerned to play their role in order to implement the resolution of the 19th OAU summit within the time limit.

Concerning our Comoran brothers, we extend our active support to them for the efforts they are making to preserve their independence, unity, and territorial integrity of the Comore Islands by the reintegration of East Timor.

Mr President, the failure of the sixth UNCTAD meeting in Belgrade shows to what extent the international community has been driven to take purposeless and useless risks. As if the harsh hardships brought about by the current economic crisis are not enough to prick world conscience, the Belgrade conference once again showed the selfishness and determination of the industrialized countries not to do anything that will truly and really enhance better relations between the North and the South. As obsessed as they are by short-term preoccupations, industrialized countries are standoffish and hesitant in their policies, and this threatens our common future. The case of the North-South dialogue was already an eloquent indication of the state of mind of the industrialized countries. For about half a decade now, our countries have wasted their resources and have squeezed their budgets to organize expensive conferences. But after attending these conferences, one wonders about the usefulness of them, since they invariably end up in a deadlock.

CDR Secretariat on Need for Vigilance

AB140858 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Statement issued in Ouagadougou on 14 October by the National Secretariat of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution — Read by Comrade Iboudou of the National Secretariat of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution]

[Text] In conformity with the measures taken by the extraordinary ministerial council meeting held at Po under the chairmanship of Captain Thomas Sankara, the great leader of the revolution, and considering the duty placed on the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] by the secretary of state for the interior, the National Secretariat of the CDR calls on all CDR militants, wherever they may be, to consider them-

selves as agents who are responsible for the security of the revolution and to immediately report to the brigade of the National Gendarmerie or to the nearest administrative authorities any violation of the law binding the former politicians put under house arrest.

This call concerns particularly the CDR militants at border areas. Mobilized and abiding by the guidelines of the National Secretariat of the CDR, you must block the way to these sinister individuals who for a long time have been in the pay of the bourgeoisie linked with international imperialism. With [words indistinct] vigilance, the counterrevolutionaries will never pass through. Fatherland or death; we will overcome.

ANGOLA

Diplomatic Relations Reestablished With Portugal

For Lisbon and Luanda radio reports on the visit by Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge to Portugal, during which diplomatic relations were reestablished with that country, see the Portugal section of the 17 October Western Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Dos Santos Approves People's Vigilante Statutes

AB150715 Luanda ANGOP in French 1105 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Luanda, 14 Oct (ANGOP) — Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party and of the People's Republic of Angola, recently signed a decree which was published in the official gazette, *Diaro da Republica*, approving the statutes of the People's Vigilante Brigades and the creation of a national department of the People's Vigilante Brigades under the Ministry of Provincial Coordination. According to the decree, the functioning of the People's Vigilante Brigades will be assumed, ensured, and defined by the minister of provincial coordination and by provincial, municipal, communal, and district commissioners. The document stresses that the People's Vigilante Brigades (BPV) are of the masses, composed of Angolan citizens who are willing to contribute voluntarily to defend the country and public property against counterrevolutionary elements, delinquents, and antisocial elements.

According to the presidential decree, the objective of this organization is to organize the popular masses in their residential areas so they can help prevent and fight in their areas counterrevolutionary demonstrations and criminal and antisocial activities through the vigilante service which will work closely with defense, security, and internal security organs. The decree adds that these brigades must contribute to the political and ideological education of the people, support government institutions in the carrying out of the public health campaigns, and promote and organize operations for cleaning up and improving each residential area in order to create better living conditions. The decree states that members of the BPV must support the national economy by voluntarily carrying out community projects in their residential areas and by mobilizing the popular masses in each area for carrying out other tasks that have been proposed by the MPLA-Labor Party.

On territorial organization, the document adds that the BPV are organized according to residential areas and can also be formed according to compounds, buildings, and residential districts in accordance with the objective conditions of each area and the number of brigade members. The decree notes that if the conditions and the number of brigade members allow, the zone of operation of each member should be made as small as possible by organizing the members of the brigade according to compounds and buildings. Each brigade will be headed by a coordinator, a head of administration, and a head of vigilance who are elected by the assembly of the brigade members through a direct and open vote. Each brigade must be made up of at least three members.

The decree stresses that at the communal or residential district level, steering committees for the BPV will be created and will be charged with the orientation and the supervision of brigades in their respective territories. These committees will be under their respective communal or residential district commissioner. In the communes and residential districts, the steering committees for the BPV are elected by the assembly of all the coordinators from the communal and residential district brigades on recommendation of the municipal committee of the MPLA-Labor Party.

35 UNITA 'Bandits' Killed in Huila, Cuanza Sul

MB150557 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] The Angolan Armed Forces killed 35 UNITA bandits in military operations carried out in Huila, Cuanza Sul, and Bie last week. According to a source from the Angolan Defense Ministry cited by ANGOP, the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola seized various war equipment, including handgrenades, 60-mm mortars, South African-made haversacks, and infantry weapons. The same source says that during the Angolan forces' operations, some cattle that had been stolen by the puppets in the pay of Pretoria were retrieved.

Further FAPLA Operations

MB160832 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] About 200 UNITA bandits were killed over the past 20 days by the glorious People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] in operations carried out in the Provinces of Huambo, Bie, Malanje, Cuanza Sul, Benguela, and Cuando Cubango. During these last 20 days FAPLA stepped up its actions against the enemy even further. During this period FAPLA also captured 50 UNITA bandits and considerable quantities of war equipment abandoned when the enemy was fleeing in disarray. About 300 members of the public were released and 178 head of cattle were retrieved. These military actions have also resulted in the destruction of 12 UNITA bases.

UNITA Announces Release of Portuguese Captives

MB150633 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Communique issued by the UNITA Central Committee in Angola on 27 September 1983]

[Text] Honoring its word, the UNITA Central Committee on 27 September 1983 handed over to the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] 23 Portuguese nationals who had been held in detention. These Portuguese nationals will be repatriated through the ICRC. UNITA wishes to express its admiration and profound sadness because, according to information we have received, the 36 UNITA elements held prisoner by the MPLA, who were supposed to be exchanged for Czechoslovak nationals, have been deliberately killed or have succumbed to torture by the political police. UNITA is even more

surprised in that every time the representatives of the ICRC have visited our areas, we have always given them the opportunity to visit hundreds of People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola soldiers being held in detention by UNITA. However, on the Luanda side, representatives of the ICRC have never been allowed to visit UNITA prisoners. It is worth reminding the international community that among the 36 detained whom we would like to see freed are two women who have been sentenced to over 20 years in prison.

Should the MPLA government's present arrogant stand persist, the UNITA Central Committee regrets to say that it will be forced to review its policy regarding the release of the Czechoslovak nationals and visits to all people presently being held in detention by UNITA. Nothing can save the MPLA and our country unless there is political courage for dialogue. UNITA is determined to move into Luanda Province this year and to carry out a massive occupation of that province. All this will bring about more misery, death, and misfortune. We will continue to fight until the MPLA agrees to dialogue.

The struggle triumphs. United we will win.

[Signed] Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, president of UNITA

MOZAMBIQUE

5 Injured in Explosion in Maputo Apartment

MB170623 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0600 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] A total of five people have been interned in a hospital. This is the first assessment of a violent explosion that occurred in Maputo city during the early hours of today. It was 0300 when a very powerful explosion occurred in an apartment on the fifth floor of the residential building situated at No 370, General Pereira d'Eca Road, at the corner of Mao Zedong Avenue. The explosion, whose causes are not as yet known, has caused extensive material damage in the building and five wounded who have been interned in a hospital. Police authorities were promptly at the scene and have begun investigations. Approached by our team soon after the explosion, official sources regarded it as premature to give further details at this early stage of the enquiry.

Serious Damage Reported

MB170932 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0900 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] The present result of the violent explosion which occurred in Maputo city early this morning is four wounded who are still in hospital. It was 0300 when a violent explosion occurred on the terrace of a five-story residential building situated at No 370 General Pereira d'Eca Road near the corner with Mao Zedong Avenue. The explosion, which alarmed the residents of the nearby suburbs, was caused by explosive charges placed on the terrace of the building. Material damage is high and the explosion has also caused damage to adjacent buildings. One of the wounded, who was initially taken to hospital, has already been discharged and returned home. Members of the defense, security, and police forces are at the scene carrying out investigations. It is expected that further information will be obtained from the authorities during the course of the day.

Government Statement Issued

AB170722 Paris AFP in English 0715 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Maputo, Oct 17 (AFP) — A violent explosion in a Maputo apartment building injured five people early today, the Mozambique Government announced shortly after South Africa said its forces had made yet another raid on guerrilla installations in Maputo.

The communique from the Mozambican Ministry of Information did not assign blame for the blast, nor did it mention the African National Congress (ANC), the outlawed South African black nationalist movement, as having been the target. But residents of Maputo said the apartment where the explosion took place about 3:00 a.m. was known as the ANC office in the Mozambican capital.

The government statement said the blast caused serious damage in the flat on the fifth floor of a residential building at the concern of General Pereira de Eca Street and Mao Zedong Avenue near the center of Maputo.

The five wounded were taken to hospital, security forces cordoned off the blast area. Before today, South Africa had made two major attacks in the past two years on ANC targets in Matola, a Maputo suburb. A commando raid in January 1981 killed at least 20 people and an air raid in May of this year claimed another six lives, according to the Mozambicans.

Finance Minister Returns From EEC Meeting

MB161058 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] The Mozambique delegation led by Minister Rui Baltazar which took part in the official opening of negotiations for a new convention between the European Economic Community and the African, Caribbean, and Pacific [ACP] group in Luxembourg 6-7 October returned home late this morning. Minister Rui Baltazar said that Mozambique took part and will continue to take part as observer in the whole negotiating process until the possible signing of Lome 3. The Mozambique finance minister made it clear that there are no preconditions in these negotiations, and therefore, of the countries in the ACP group, which includes Mozambique and Angola; only those countries which find that there is a balance of interests on both sides will sign the new convention.

On whether future adherence to the new convention would force Mozambique to distance itself from the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, Minister Baltazar pointed out that this should not be the case, because the two things are not in any way incompatible. In our understanding, they are two completely distinct things, with neither one having any implications concerning the other, Minister Rui Baltazar said in conclusion.

NAMIBIA

SWATF Spokesman Confirms 146 Detainees

MB141500 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1443 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Windhoek, Oct 14, SAPA — South Africa is holding 146 prisoners, 14 of them Angolans, in a detention camp near Mariental, a spokesman for the SWA Territory Force [SWATF] confirmed in Windhoek today. Most of the internees were captured by security forces on a raid on SWAPO bases near Cassinga in southern Angola nearly 4 1/2 years ago, according to a report in the *Windhoek Advertiser*. The SWATF was asked to confirm a report by the International Red Cross this month that delegates to the ICRC reported seeing 14 "Angolan prisoners of war and 139 security detainees." The SWATF spokesman said the detainees were visited by the ICRC every two or three months. Most of those held had been taken prisoner in 1978, but later captives had also been taken there. The internees are being held in terms of regulation AG9, which provides for detention periods up to 30 days, renewable by the administrator-general.

SOUTH AFRICA

SADF Task Force Attacks ANC Target in Maputo

MB170506 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0443 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Pretoria, Oct 17, SAPA — A statement from defence headquarters phoned to SAPA today reads: "A small task group of the SADF early this morning successfully carried out a pre-emptive operation against an ANC target in Maputo. The task group has already returned safely."

"The minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, revealed this information and said that South Africa has warned the Mozambican authorities repeatedly not to grant facilities and not to harbour terrorists and in so doing permit them to launch and plan attacks and aggression against the RSA. In fact, General Malan said, the South African Government had offered to enter into non-aggression pacts with neighbouring states. In this regard, the Mozambican Government has been specially warned to get rid of the ANC. This government, nevertheless, is obviously not prepared to heed these warnings. As long as they continue to help the ANC with the planning of terrorist acts and continue to harbour and provide facilities to the ANC, the SADF will conduct operations in that country.

"The target, an ANC headquarters in a penthouse and a flat on the fourth floor of a building near the FAM (Frelimo Armed Forces) Headquarters and the residential area where the President of Mozambique lives, was one of the ANC's planning offices in Maputo. From offices like this acts of terror like the one last week in Warmbaths were planned, controlled and supported. It is known that for a long time the ANC has been planning a further series of terror actions in the RSA. These attacks were aimed at military as well as civilian targets and did not exclude civilian casualties regardless of race or color. Some of these attacks were planned at this office. It is also known that large numbers of trained terrorists were 'processed' here in the last few weeks.

"The ANC is warned that it will not help them to hide in such a way among Mozambican soldiers and even civilians. The defence force will find their facilities and destroy them wherever they may be. The defence force will not be prepared to reveal any more information about the operation itself or its intelligence sources, General Malan said."

USSR Asks SARC Aid in Release of 8 Technicians

MB150920 Johannesburg Rand Daily Mail in English 15 Oct 83 p 1

[By Alan Downing]

[Text] Geneva — The Russians have approached the South African Red Cross [SARC] to help secure the release of eight Soviet technicians seized by guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (MNRM). This was disclosed yesterday by the president of the South African Red Cross Society, Dr P. Smit, who is in Geneva for a Red Cross conference.

The Russians made a direct appeal to the South African Red Cross after attempts to win the help of the all-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross, the guardian of the Geneva Convention and Red Cross principles. A spokesman for the International Red Cross said their negotiations to free the Russians "were not proceeding normally."

Dr Smit last year helped secure the release of hostages, including two Russians, held by the UNITA guerrilla movement in Angola. He says he was instrumental in re-establishing contact between the International Red Cross and the UNITA leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi. However, Dr Smit has caused some embarrassment within the Red Cross because he awarded a Red Cross medal to Dr Savimbi.

President Viljoen Speaks at Military Parade

MB151215 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] At one of the biggest military parades ever seen in Pretoria, the state president said this morning the Defense Force upheld the ideals that bound people together across all frontiers in South Africa. The parade was held in honor of President Marais Viljoen as commander in chief of the Defense Force. He said the force was a mirror image of the population and in the execution of its manifold tasks, the national character of the different population groups complemented each other to achieve the most effective results. As far as the various components of the national power base were concerned, South Africa had developed abilities and attained achievements which were to the benefit of the entire subcontinent.

President Viljoen said many eminent visitors to South Africa probably found it incredible that a country such as South Africa had managed not merely to survive, but to prosper and, in the African context, to develop into a young giant. The people of

South Africa faced challenges and surmounted obstacles that would have crushed those of a lesser breed. President Viljoen also paid tribute to those members who had sacrificed their lives for the country and other members of the Defense Force family such as the Armaments Development Production Corporation and the Southern Cross Fund.

Prime Minister Addresses Port Elizabeth Meeting

MB160913 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, has announced that the Cabinet has decided to give new impetus to the further development of the Orange River project.

Mr Botha made the announcement at a public meeting in Port Elizabeth. He said one of the first schemes to be tackled would be the enlargement of the Fish and Sundays River Canal under the government's decentralization plan for the region. This included the construction of a weir at (Wellington Grove). Mr Botha said the Department of Environmental Affairs was investigating further irrigation developments below the P.K. le Roux Dam.

Turning to the present controversy on religion, the prime minister said it was wrong to try to force certain religious convictions on other people in the country. He said it was important that the state should confine its activities to matters of the state and that the church should concern itself with religious issues.

On a homeland for Coloreds, the prime minister said that not only was such a step undesirable and impractical, but in the present economic climate it would cost at least 80 billion rand to create such a homeland, compared with the estimated 700 million rand spent on the consolidation of black areas since 1936. Mr Botha pointed out that since 1910 it had been the policy of the prime ministers of South Africa to make provision for the Coloreds within the form of a government of the whites.

Comments on Confederation

MB141838 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says he believes in two concepts for the country's future: a confederation of independent states cooperating together in many spheres and a broader concept of a constellation of states working together in their joint interests although politically independent.

Mr Botha, who was addressing the World Business Council Conference in Cape Town, was replying to questions from delegates. He said he didn't believe in the superiority of whites, but he believed in what whites have produced and achieved. Mr Botha said the new spirit in South Africa was not confined to the economic sphere. Just as South Africa sought the evolution of resources in the economic sphere, the country also sought it in the constitutional sphere to move away from excessive centralization and thereby involve more parties in the decisionmaking process.

Interviewed on Relations

MB160732 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] The prime minister of South Africa, Mr P.W. Botha, has said he wants to see defense agreements and nonaggression pacts with all his country's neighbors. In an interview published in Johannesburg, Mr Botha said he has stressed this to various leaders he has met over the years.

He denies that South Africa is a destabilizing force in southern Africa and says that there are a number of ways that South Africa can assist its neighbors. Mr Botha said he has had more direct contacts with heads of state than is generally known, and he believes secret meetings he has had in South Africa have produced results. He hopes that all responsible leaders will accept the neccessity of dealing with South Africa in a fair way, as treating the country as an outcast will not bear any fruit.

Turning to internal politics, Mr Botha says the idea of unity among the Afrikaner nation at the expense of a united South Africa is out.

6,388 Squatters Ordered out of Western Cape

MB141544 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] A total of 6,388 Crossroads squatters have been endorsed out of the Western Cape. During the past 3 weeks, squatters have been registering at the Western Cape Administration Board office in the hope of getting onto the official list. Of the 6,406 who registered, 6,388 were given 72 hours to get out of the Western Cape. Only 18 were accepted as legal residents.

The Transkeian consul general has offered assistance to the illegal squatters as to whether they have the right to be in Cape Town. According to Crossroads residents none of the so-called illegal squatters have yet returned to the homeland. Daily demolition raids continue at the camp.

UDF Holds Organizing Meeting in Eastern Cape

MB160850 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0800 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] The United Democratic Front [UDF] has succeeded in launching its border region. The launch took place in Grahamstown yesterday. Two previous attempts to launch the branch were foiled by bannings. Earlier meetings had been planned in East London 2 weeks ago and in King William's Town this weekend, but both were banned.

Yesterday's meeting elected an executive headed by presidents, (Steve Chetwe), who is currently in detention in the Ciskei, and (Bangumsi Sisingo), of the South African Allied Workers Union. After the meeting the new executive said in a statement they would implement the programs of the UDF no matter what.

SWAZILAND

Sedition Bill Published in Government Gazette

MB150958 Mbabane The Swazi Observer in English 15 Oct 83 pp 1,7

[Text] A new bill which will provide for the appointment of a special tribunal to hear sedition cases has been published in the Government Gazette Extraordinary released yesterday. The object of this Bill is to amend the Sedition and Subversive Activities Act, 1938, so as to raise the penalties under the Act from the present 2 years imprisonment or a fine of E200 to 20 years in prison or a fine of E20,000 and to make provision for the appointment of a special tribunal in certain cases and for criminal proceedings under the Act to be heard in camera as deemed by the prosecution.

The new Bill will be presented by the Minister of Justice, Dr Polycarp Dlamini, for debate at the next sitting of Parliament. The Act according to the gazette, may be cited as the Sedition and Subversive Activities (amendment) Act, 1983, and shall be read as one with the Sedition and Subversive Activities Act of 1938. The amendment to the Bill provides for the prosecution of anybody who without lawful excuse, has in his possession any seditious publication. Such a person shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for 20 years or to a fine of E20,000.

The Bill also provides that any seditious publication relating to an offence under this section shall be forfeited to the Government. The amended section of the Act of 1938, says that any person who does or attempts to do or makes any preparations to do an act with a subversive intention or who utters any words with a subversive intention shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a term not exceeding 20 years without the option of a fine.

Under the Sedition Act of 1938, the maximum penalty for sedition was three years imprisonment. Under the Act, subversive means:

— Supporting, propagating or advocating any act or thing prejudicial to:

— Public order;

— The security of Swaziland;

— The administration of justice.

Under the Act no prosecution for an offence shall be begun later than six months after such offence was committed. The Act also says no person shall be prosecuted for an offence under [words missing, as published] without the written consent of the Attorney General. The Act adds that no person shall be convicted of an offence on the uncorroborated testimony of one witness.

The amended principal Act says:

— Where the Prime Minister is of the opinion that an offence with which a person is charged involves the security of Swaziland, he may, in writing issue a certificate to that effect and all proceedings shall then be held before the special tribunal.

— The Prime Minister may appoint a special tribunal to hear and determine any charge or charges against any person under this Act. The tribunal shall have exclusive jurisdiction in the conduct and determination of all the proceedings in the matter.

— The tribunal appointed shall consist of a chairman having such legal qualifications as the Prime Minister may determine and not less than four other members appointed by the Prime Minister on such terms and conditions as he may determine.

— In the performance of its functions, the tribubal shall apply the law applicable to the High Court in criminal proceedings and it and every member shall have the same powers, privileges and immunities as the High Court or a judge of the High Court, as the case may be.

— All proceedings or part thereof relating to an offence under this Act shall be held in camera if the prosecution, at any time, so requests; and the court or the tribunal shall comply with any such request.

Standing Committee Formed for State Council

MB150936 Mbabane The Swazi News in English 15 Oct 83 p 24

[By *Times* reporter — as published]

[Text] Princess Mnengwase has been co-opted to the Standing Committee of the Supreme Council of State (Liqoqo). The establishment of the new body is announced in a Government Gazette Extraordinary just published. The gazette is signed by the Authorised Person, Prince Sozisa and dated October 12.

The standing committee is a new body which will run the day-to-day affairs of the Liqoqo and ensure that its decisions are implemented smoothly. The other members of the committee are actual members of the Supreme Council itself, and Princess Mnengwase is the only new face.

The other members are Prince Sifuba, Prince Makhungu, Prince Mfanasibili, Chief Mfanawenkhosi Maseko, Agriculture Minister A.K. Hlophe and Dr George Msibi. Mr R.M. Mabila is to be secretary of the standing committee. The appointments are with immediate effect.

ZAMBIA

Prime Minister on 2-Day Tour of Copperbelt

MB160859 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia has urged Zambian students to work hard in order to become useful citizens in future. The prime minister, who is on a 2-day Copperbelt tour which ends tomorrow, said this when he addressed the students at Fatima Girls Secondary School near Ndola. He regretted that

some students did not know why they were at school, and yet this was the most important and formative time in their lives, adding that a good future for an individual does not come by chance, but through hard work. Mr Mundia, however, noted that the educational system in the country had improved tremendously since independence, due to the party and its government's policies in the field.